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## Two 'Execution' Murders Bodies Dumped on Highways



**INTERVIEW: Band Leader Jon Sims, page 21**  
(Photo by Efrén Ramirez)

### SHOCKING POLICE CONDUCT In Canadian Bath Raid

#### TORONTO

Twenty police officers refused management's offer of keys to doors and lockers in a recent raid on The Barracks steam bath here. They chose to use hammers and crowbars to do extensive damage to the premises as they ripped ashtrays from walls, kicked in partitions, and forcibly gained entrance to rooms and lockers.

Charges of "being in a bawdy house" were made against the 28 men in the bath at the time. Police allege that a steam bath is a "house of prostitution." Activists noted that only The Barracks was raided because it has S/M paraphernalia in some rooms. Police confiscated whips and chains.

Many of those arrested

charged, as reported in *The Body Politic*, that they were brutalized and humiliated by arresting officers. One patron said an officer placed a knife to his throat, while another reported that a gun was thrust at him. At the police station, some of the arrested were forced to parade back and forth in front of female officers while they were ridiculed.

Government officials and some police officers who were members of The Barracks are in panic. The "members list" with 800 names and addresses was confiscated.

Those being charged had to have compulsory VD tests and were questioned extensively about their religious back-

ground and where they worked. They were asked, "What really happens at The Barracks?"

Four hundred Gay people held a public meeting to protest the raid and the manner in which it was conducted. They marched through the city to City Hall.

Police opposition was to the "common" rooms where many can congregate and allegedly have sexual activity. Following the raid, all local Gay steam baths closed their common rooms.

### Bound, Nude Bodies Discovered After South of Market Pickups

Tom Gloster, a missing school comptroller, and a visitor from Burbank in Southern California, Richard Niemeier, were both murdered within the past two weeks and their nude bodies dumped in remote counties. Each had been shot many times in the same close muzzle-to-the-body fashion. Gloster was wearing only a black T-shirt when discovered, while Niemeier only had a turquoise ring in one ear. Each had been bound, both hands and feet, although Niemeier's ropes were missing.

The Brig, a South-of-Market bar, was the last place that both men evidently visited. Gloster was last seen in the bar on Sunday morning, February 4, at 1:30am. Niemeier was last observed drinking in the bar at midnight on Thursday, February 8. Both bodies were discovered within hours after they were last seen. Authorities are seeking information about anyone who might have been seen with either man at The Brig.

The similarities between the men has amazed law enforcement officials. Gloster was 31, while Niemeier was 32. Both had small mustaches and were described by Sgt. John Robertson, Napa Sheriff's Department, as "quiet loners, humble men who enjoyed the finer

discovered 33 miles west of Red Bluff in Tehama County, 100 miles from the Oregon border, by a passing motorist. The body was on Highway 36-West. He was discovered on February 5 — within 24 hours after he was reported missing by visiting friends from Oregon. The body was not identified until February 11.

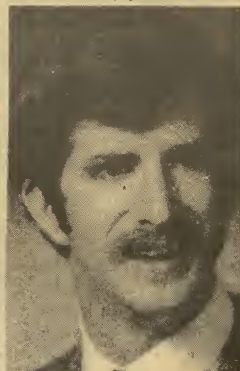
Niemeier's body was discovered three miles outside of Napa by a jogger — only hours after he had been last seen at The Brig. He had been shot 2 times in the face and once in the back of the head and once in the back.

Both men had many Gay friends in San Francisco. Gloster was a resident and Niemeier frequently visited the city and stayed at the YMCA Hotel on Turk Street.

Undersheriff Mike Blansa of Tehama County explained that two of his deputies, Lt. Bill Cashdollar and Sgt. Casey Case, have been in San Francisco investigating the Gloster case. They may be reached by those who have leads to a possible assailant at 916-527-1551 (call "collect" if the information is vital to the case).

Sgt. John Robertson, Napa County Sheriff's Department, urges anyone with information about the Niemeier case to call Inspectors Ed Erdelatz or Jeff Borsch of the local police department at 553-1145.

Tehama and Napa deputies are distributing photos of the victims in the Gay community.



**TOM GLOSTER**

His body discovered in Tehama County.

things like museums, art shows, the opera."

Gloster had been shot five times in the back of the head and once in the back. He was



# 38 Arrested in San Diego, Toronto Police Crackdowns

## San Diego Crackdown Arrests Increase, Bath Bust Nabs 10

By George Mendenhall

A state of shock and depression has swept over the Gay communities in two countries over recent police harassment of homosexuals in steam baths. Large numbers of police personnel have been used in both San Diego and Toronto, Canada, to raid two baths that were both quiet businesses, away from the general public.

In the Toronto raid, twenty officers arrested 28 men and did extensive damage to The Barracks bath. It is reported inside. This is the report on the San Diego bust:

"There is an overall police crackdown here on all kinds of sexual activity. It is an insane resurrection of puritanism."

This is the conclusion of Atty. George Haverstick, who

is representing numerous Gay men arrested in a steam bath raid on February 1. The Fourth Avenue Club was the scene of the midnight bust, which Haverstick says followed numerous recent arrests in Gay

bars for such minor conduct as kissing and groping.

Ten officers entered the steam bath — one at a time — between 10:30 and midnight. They became patrons, walking about in towels and reportedly "flirting" and "cruising," although there is no allegation that they participated in any overt sexual activity.

Other officers entered at midnight with a bullhorn. George Raya, former Sacramento Gay lobbyist, was a patron (not arrested). He reported to B.A.R. that numerous uniformed officers entered at midnight with a bullhorn. All



GEORGE RAYA  
Former Gay lobbyist reports on San Diego bath raid.

## 'They Say Stay in the Baths, — Then They Bust You There'

patrons were lined up and flashlights shined in their faces. Officers picked out ten who they said had performed "lewd" acts (647a).

Atty. Haverstick said that the arrests would probably not hold up because the identities were probably not accurate. He said that the police obviously were more interested in harassing the baths. Bath employees were also arrested.

Why a steam bath bust at this time? Haverstick said that the Fourth Avenue Club may have been raided after recent fire in-

spectors detected alleged sexual activity during a visit. He said the raid was ordered by the District Attorney.

The attorney said, "I do not understand it. Last summer an officer who made several public sex arrests in nearby Balboa Park advised those he arrested, 'Why don't you go to the baths where you are safe?' He was

right — but now they are arresting in a bath. This creates a Catch-22 situation."

The bath bust was reported on television and in the local newspapers. The *Los Angeles Times* published the names of those arrested in its San Diego edition.

Numerous local Gay activists are meeting with American Civil Liberties Union officials over the recent harassment of Gay people. There are some who, out of fear, are asking whether it is safe here to have Gay Freedom Day activities in June.

## Dr. Brothers: Why Homophobia?

Syndicated columnist Dr. Joyce Brothers asked the question, "Does disgust for homosexuality indicate a man's strong heterosexuality?"

She concluded, "A strong distaste for homosexuals may indicate fear of homosexual inclinations. When it's obsessive, fear of homosexuality acts as a barrier in establishing close male friendships."

## How 'Private' Is A Bath?

Three attorneys who are familiar with the Gay community and its legal problems are in general agreement that a steam bath is a public place, subject to laws that restrict "public" activity.

The attorneys — David Clayton, San Francisco; Al Gordon, Los Angeles; George Haverstick, San Diego — told B.A.R. that police officers and district attorneys vary in their opinions, but that it is reasonable for a patron to expect privacy in a locked cubicle of a bath. All agreed that other areas of a steam bath are probably not "private."

The heart of the matter appears to be that although a fee is required and that patrons are locked behind a front entrance door — any male may enter a men's public bath. Clayton, co-owner of the Steam Works bath chain and an upfront Gay activist, believes that "private membership" steam baths may delay the police from entering but that this does not bar entrance.

Three men were arrested in what was described as a "three-way sexual encounter" in a San Francisco steam bath in 1978. The men were in a steam room. Former Asst. D.A. Daniel Weinstein refused to prosecute because he stated the men had reason to expect privacy after they made their entrance to the bath. Gordon said he thought Weinstein would have difficulty defending that position if he had been challenged.

It is generally known across the United States that the police attitude toward the Gay steam baths in San Francisco is "out of sight, out of mind."

California has a private consensual sex law, but local court rulings across the state will evidently continue to vary as to what "private" means until there is a ruling by the State Supreme Court. . . . GM

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## Pride vs. Parade Issues Explained

Three of the 1978 Gay Freedom Day officials have been named in a lawsuit filed by the Pride Foundation, a Gay organization.

Pride contends that the officials are withholding information that Pride needs to document its tax-exempt status.

Pride acted as fiscal agent for the parade during the 1978 parade so that the committee could be tax-exempt. It also obtained \$10,000 in city funds for the parade.

The committee raised approximately \$38,000 for the event and had an \$8,000 balance to begin this year's event. In addition, the city has granted \$6,700 for this year's parade with that money being held by the city — evidently until the committee itself becomes tax-exempt or a fiscal agent is designated.

The court action by Pride is against Celeste Newbrough and Chris Perry, co-chairs of the 1978 event, and the committee's Legal Counsel, Atty. Walter Caplan. The action asks the court for:

- An injunction demanding all records and monies in possession of the committee.
- An order compelling an accounting of all monies collected, expended, or held by the committee.
- Costs and expenses to Pride for the suit filed plus any other costs the court may deem necessary.

Perry George, Pride's Vice President, told B.A.R. that the 1978 parade committee officials "haven't got any way out of this, except to produce the books. Once they produce the books, an auditor says how this is irregular and that is irregular. Then we can go after them for the criminal stuff."

### ACCUSED ANSWER

The 1978 parade officials

deny there are irregularities. They state that Pride already has been given copies of the books and a financial statement (published in B.A.R., November 22, 1978). They told B.A.R. that what Pride wants is "control over all the committee monies, from whatever source, although those funds were raised for the committee in 1978 and future years, not for the Pride Foundation."

The committee officials have agreed to turn over all its financial records to Pride if the foundation would place the funds in the joint Pride/Parade account over to another tax-exempt group for use of the committee in future parades. The suit was not dropped.

The court action has received considerable negative publicity. The accused parade officials now urge Pride to drop the suit and to join them in submitting the issues to a mutually-acceptable group of Gay leaders to resolve the conflict.

"We will do all in our power," the charged told B.A.R., "to protect our individual reputations, and to ensure the democracy and independence of the Parade Committee."

The current 1979 parade committee has overwhelmingly voted its support of the three defendants. It also voted to urge the Gay Freedom Day Corporation to attempt to become a co-defendant in the Pride suit.

## 400 City Health Employees Receive Gay, Bi-Sexual Training Course

A historical "first" was again achieved in San Francisco in the past two months when 400 employees of the city's Health Department attended a mandatory 17½-hour training course on the Lesbian, Gay male, and Bi-Sexual lifestyles. Exempted from the course were 100 employees who have no direct contact with the community and a few who simply did not attend.

The course was a series of weekend "crash" programs, each including 16 hours of speakers and "rap" sessions and 1½ hours of explicit sex films that showed same-sex acts. The entire program was produced by the National Sex Forum, a local firm in its 11th year. The coordinator for the series was Ron Lee, director of the city's psychological counseling service called the Center for Special Problems.

Lee, an up-front Gay activist, told B.A.R., "We presented the concerns and lifestyle of Gay people and bisexuals and the positive response from those attending was overwhelming. It was most innovative and courageous for the city's Mental Health Director, Dr. William Goldman, to be willing to expend \$9,000 of city funds to finance the programs."

Few believed that the series would become a reality when it was first proposed by the Health Department's Gay Mental Health Task Force in early 1978.

The only vocal protest of the educational series came from officials of the Service Employees Local 400. Their opposition to the expenditure of \$9,000 from city funds re-

ceived considerable newspaper and television coverage. However, at the time the union's executive secretary objected, most of the seminars had been held.

Vince Courtney, Executive Secretary of Local 400, said he did not object to the content of the program "but others will. It depends on where a person's head is at." He filed an injunction to stop the series but later withdrew it. None of those who refused to attend received any disciplinary action.

Phyllis Lyon, co-director of the Sex Forum, said, "We tell people they can close their eyes if they might be upset by the films. In the films we try to do away with the mythology that homosexuals do weird things." Lyon was a founder of the Daughters of Bilitis and is on the city's Human Rights Commission.

Lyon explained that the National Sex Forum is a respected organization that has given scores of sexual seminars in the past 11 years. The Forum publishes books and makes its own films and slides. Lyon told B.A.R. that the major stress of Forum's programs was to help people feel comfortable with their own sexuality and with the sexuality of others. She said the weekend programs are given in every part of the country.

Lee had praise for the Dafo-dil group, a coalition of Gay health workers, for their many efforts to make the Health employees' weekends a reality. He said that the next step would be to further educate the officials of Local 400 on the needs and concerns of Gay people... GM

## Gay Lobbyist Resignation May Be Made Permanent

### SACRAMENTO

Steve Badeau, the full-time Gay lobbyist here, has submitted his resignation to California Human Rights Advocates. He told B.A.R. that he can no longer continue, with little income, to effectively represent the estimated 2-3 million homosexuals in California.

Expressing deep disappointment in the refusal of Gay people to financially support his promotion of Gay rights legislation, Badeau stated that he would only be willing to continue if Gay people in the state are willing to immediately commit themselves to his survival.

California Human Rights Advocates recently opened a small office here and has been able to obtain the services of two volunteers. It insists that the contacts that must be made, materials published, and research and interviews involving numerous legislators and administrators make the effort impossible without income.

CHRA is asking that every Gay person commit themselves to a small amount of their monthly incomes to keep Badeau in Sacramento and the lobbying office open. Monthly pledges (called "The Champions") are urgently needed.

Badeau is currently behind in his rent. CHRA owes him over \$2,500 in back salary. Readers may assist now: California Human Rights Advocates, 1107 9th St., Rm. 1019, Sacramento — (916) 448-6666.

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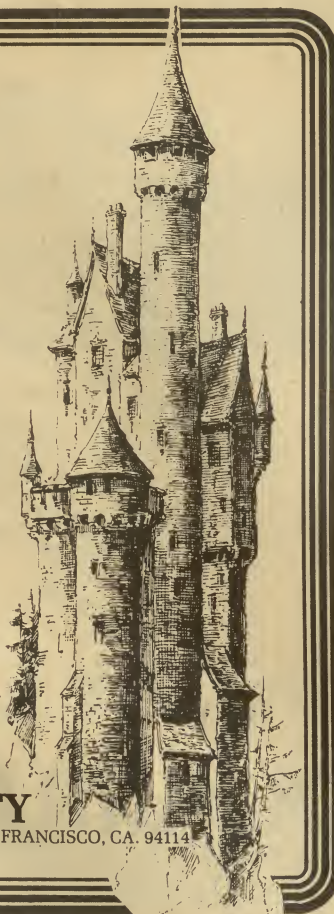
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## Black Leaders Defer Verdict on Gay Housing

By Bruce Pettit

BART Director Wil Ussery last week persuaded the San Francisco Black Leadership Forum (BLF) to broaden its investigation into the reasons black people are in a housing crunch in the Western Addition. A BLF workshop had originally announced only one topic: Gay speculation.

Gay people had been charged — in a Third World Fund newsletter article — with displacing black families in their longtime neighborhoods. It was contended that, not only are Gays setting high rents for apartments renovated with loans they more easily obtain, but Gays also more successfully compete for scarce units by living together and combining adult incomes.

Yet, as Ussery summarized his Forum points for B.A.R., "If we focus too narrowly, we cannot provide the leadership the black community needs to deal with this problem. It is not a single issue, and to understand its complexities we have to do our homework."

Consequently, the BLF divided into task forces to explore several economic and social ramifications. Factors for research included the role of redevelopment agencies in making resources available to blacks, possible "institutionalized racism" that denies blacks

investment opportunities, and population shifts (by race and sexual orientation) that may be altering political power.

BLF president Wally Stokes said the findings should be available in March. He could not, however, predict whether Gays would then be invited into dialogue on the concerns because "I cannot pre-suppose the results of the task force reports." Nevertheless, Stokes asserted, "There is a building resentment in the black community against Gay speculation. There is apparent evidence that Gays do discriminate by not making housing available to straights."

Stokes admitted "emotionalism ran high" when black Gay activist Simeon White was asked to leave a planning session held the day preceding the workshop. White, a Forum member, had attempted like Ussery to expand the issue beyond blacks vs. Gays. Stokes believed White had no influence on the direction the workshop took the next day.

Black Lesbian activist Gwenn Craig attended the entire workshop and later gave Ussery credit for turning it around. Yet workshop discussion returned to the Gay theme. Forum members asked Craig whether she gave priority to her being black or being Gay. She answered that her racial heritage is more significant and hoped that eventually her sexual identity would cause no trouble. Why do you need to tell anyone you're Gay, she was asked by members. "Some people cannot hide, will not hide," she replied.

Craig reported that workshop panelist Carleton Jones lamented "a national Gay conspiracy" — comprised of Gay press, organizations, and counseling services. In his local black newspaper, *Crusader*, Jones supported Proposition 6 last year, contending the "Gay agenda" had no place on the "black agenda." Stokes told B.A.R. most black people would agree that Gay and black politics need to remain separate. But on the particular issue of Prop. 6, Stokes insisted, the majority of blacks disagreed with Jones.

Simeon White is a coordinator of the Third World Gay Caucus, which "tries to reduce racism in the Gay community and reduce homophobia in the Third World." He said the Caucus will press for dialogue regardless of whether a Forum invitation is forthcoming.

## Harvey Milk Club Seeks Non-Democrats

The Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club amended its by-laws last month to accept members who are not registered Democrats.

Retiring president Harry Britt explained that the club expects to work for Gay liberation "wherever necessary" and not solely in party affairs, and that the club welcomed the energies of people who do not wish to register Democratic. However, he said, the club will retain "Democratic" in its title to indicate that it will still concentrate

its partisan political activity in that party rather than other parties.

The change may jeopardize the club's standing with the California Democratic Council (CDC) — organized to represent the state's most liberal Democrats — which HMGDC joined when it formed as the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club two years ago. Last year the Milk club was one of the groups that used CDC as the vehicle to force Gov. Jerry Brown to endorse "NO" on Proposition 6.

Fran Wilmarth, CDC legal counsel, told B.A.R. the Milk club action technically violates CDC by-laws to which member clubs must conform. "However," said Wilmarth, "you might be able to structure a club so that it has only Democrats as full members and non-Democrats as auxiliary members."

Bill Kraus, elected HMGDC president last month, commented, "I'm here because someone had to take Harry's place when Harry had to take Harvey's place (on the city's Board of Supervisors)."

George Geer — who worked for the election of Milk opponent Rick Stokes in 1977 — was chosen HMGDC vice president for political affairs. Gwenn Craig became vice president for internal affairs, Jeff Katzoff recording secretary, Cleve Jones corresponding secretary, and Bob Heacock was re-elected treasurer ... BP

## Sprinkler System Saves 'Ritch St.'

A minor fire confined to one cubicle at the Club San Francisco, former 'Ritch Street Baths,' was confined because of a modern sprinkler system installed by the new owners in 1978.

Two local baths that did not have a sprinkler system, The Barracks and The Castro Baths, have been destroyed by fire. The old Ritch Street Baths was also destroyed by fire shortly after it was occupied by the new management.

John Schmidt, a member of the Fire Safety Gay Advisory Task Force, told B.A.R. that his group has been meeting for many months with Fire Chief Andy Casper to resolve Gay fire safety problems. The Task Force has recommended to the city that a law be passed requiring sprinkler systems in all newly constructed steam baths.

A Fire Prevention Bureau inspector told B.A.R. that current law regarding sprinkler systems is complicated with many "ifs, and's and but's." There is no city requirement that all public occupancy buildings must have sprinkler systems, although all are required to have fire detector "alarm" systems.

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## Viewpoint

### A HOPE FULFILLED

Harvey Milk was proud of the column he contributed each issue to the B.A.R. He seldom if ever missed a deadline, and while Harvey was no writer — the rhetoric of "Milk Forum" spun out dream upon dream. We cosmetized his efforts rather heavily (our function was to make him look better than he was, to read as if what he submitted was actually intended to be read — not dreamed). Often 1/3 of what came to the Editor's desk became the column. Harvey never complained; he knew we were working to the same goal but by different avenues.

Harvey had one major criticism of the B.A.R.: our front cover was advertising, now news. He brought it up again and again. Our response was that the premium page "paid the rent" and that a solvent newspaper is an alive newspaper. We debated the issue for months, if not years.

Four days before Harvey's murder, we concluded that the time had come to make the change. We targeted for February 15. We knew Harvey would be thrilled — we never got to deliver the news.

Events following our colleague's assassination moved so rapidly that we missed paying Harvey a fitting tribute in these pages.

We have heard from all those pledged to carry out Harvey's plans, programs, and dreams. With this issue we make one of them a reality: Turning the B.A.R. into a "real" newspaper. As it happens *post mortem*, we do it proudly and affectionately in Harvey's honor.

P. Lorch

## Letters...

### GREETINGS FROM A FRIEND OF THE GAY COMMUNITY

★ Pursuant to sec. 48a of the California civil code this is to put you on notice of our right to bring legal action against you.

Your publication, the B.A.R., on or about 21 Dec 1978, broadcast false and defaming statements regarding me personally and in my capacity as the President of The Pride Foundation.

Specifically you published an article by George Mendenhall which accused me of giving information to a reporter of *The National Enquirer* for the purpose of discrediting certain individuals and to the discredit of their projects.

Since the statements printed were false and obviously intended to subject me to disfavor and disrepute and they were broadcast deliberately knowing they were false and would injure me and The Pride Foundation, I hereby demand a printed retraction and/or apology.

Paul D. Hardman  
President, Pride Foundation

ED. NOTE: B.A.R. did not publish on article at any time which implied that Hardman gave information to an *Enquirer* reporter "for the purpose of discrediting certain individuals and to the discredit of their projects."

Mendenhall states that during his conversation with Hardman he was careful to take notes on what Hardman said. He reported in the *Enquirer* story that Hardman "told B.A.R. that he cooperated with McDonald by answering his questions. He volunteered, 'I know the *Enquirer* is homophobic, but I will talk to anyone.'"

B.A.R. and Mendenhall cannot retract or publish an apology for a statement of fact but regret if the publication of this conversation subjected Hardman "to disfavor and disrepute."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### HOUSING HELP

★ The article (B.A.R., Feb. 1) about the confrontation between blacks and Gay men who buy run-down houses in black ghetto areas and then renovate such housing was interesting.

Thought about as a challenge to both Gays and blacks, measures can be taken to benefit both groups. For example, let Harry Britt recruit at least two Gay men who have renovated old buildings and ask them to prepare a talk of about one half hour to one hour, with an hour question-and-answer session to follow.

Then let him have leaflets printed giving the time and place — perhaps a school in the black area — for a "Housing Clinic." On each leaflet there will be printed at the bottom "Sponsored by Supervisor Harry Britt." This will publicize his name among black voters in his district. Of course, he will have to recruit volunteers to leaflet black homes in the area.

The Gay men will explain what they did and how they did it in their beginning talk. They might also mention any books or other guides they used that might be helpful to blacks who have the will, but not the know-how, to improve their homes. *Time-Life*, for instance, publishes a set of books explaining in great detail how to improve one's home, including instructions on precisely what tools to buy.

If this initial Housing Clinic meets with success, let others be scheduled — one every two weeks or one per month. Such a project will only succeed if it is ongoing, not just a one-shot operation.

Reed Vernon  
San Francisco

### CLEAN UP POLK STREET

★ I am outraged at what is happening to Polk Street.

The doorways along Polk from Bush on up to Clay Street are occupied every night by drug pushers, mostly Blacks from other neighborhoods, who boldly offer their junk for sale — mainly to youngsters. Gay as well as straight. This area is also alive with male prostitutes peddling their flesh to all would-be prospects. This blatant depravity is an outrage to all decent people. Gay and straight alike.

Gays on Polk Street are easy targets, as well, for muggers on Friday and Saturday nights as they leave the bars under the influence of alcohol. They are lured and sometimes forced into any alleyway along Polk Street where they are beaten and robbed.

Let's all get concerned about this so that, eventually, the police will too.

James Stuart  
San Francisco

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PURE DISCO

★ Recently someone brought up the charge that some of our discos discouraged straight females from attending. It should be mentioned in defense of this practice that a disco could be harmed financially if too many of these curiosity-seekers populated our places, since it would make these places less interesting to many of us.

Don't be misguided by these straight women. Their real interest is in "real" men. Maybe some have the obvious idea of hoping to seduce one of "our" men. I am personally offended by the presence of more than one straight couple in our discos. Let's keep our places Gay, rather than pseudo-bisexual hangouts with future problems.

In contrast, let's welcome Gay women to come. Our real friends are Gay women, and we should make them feel at home with us. Let the straights go to their own discos instead of intruding.

Paul Cameron  
Berkeley

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### NIX ON GAY vs. BLACK

★ The issue of wealthier white Gays moving into poor Black neighborhoods is a thorny problem. But we should definitely NOT allow it to become a Black vs. Gay issue. In reality, it is both a class issue and the result of oppression of Gays around America.

Life is so bad for Gays in this country that nearly every day I meet someone from Detroit or Georgia who has just immigrated here. Since housing is limited, someone must be displaced. And while white and Gay myself, I personally resent these rich white Gays moving into our neighborhoods. They know nothing of our city's consciousness or customs, or of the work we have done all these years to create a peaceful mix of colors and lifestyles. The outsiders bring their racism and their class privilege, and displace Blacks and/or poor people.

Having money is not a valid reason to destroy our neighborhood character. It is clearly a form of imperialism (and I hate the rhetoric as much as you) for people to come to our city and push out those who have lived here their whole lives.

It is a dilemma. Two oppressed groups and nowhere to go. So we wind up fighting each other rather than working toward dismantling the American system which allows one person to live off the profits of another, and for one to own another's home.

By the way, not all Gay men have money or use male privilege.

satya littlebear  
San Francisco



# Letters...

HARD ON HARDMAN

★ As a bystander, I don't always get the inside story.

Can anyone tell me why Paul Hardman/Pride have again turned on the Gay community. First it was Harvey Milk, then the new Gay Center, now suing the Gay Parade Committee??

There isn't much I can do about it out here — but I'll tell you one thing — I'll never put another foot inside 330 Grove Street till Hardman is out of the picture.

Arnold Levitsky

## ALLERGIC TO GLORIA NAYOR

★ I enjoyed your "50 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS" column, which certainly contained nuggets of good advice. But I'm over 23, and I'm not bored by punk rock. I'm torn to turkeys over how raped my ears are by DISCO-MUZAK. Every Gay bar that allows dancing plays only that monotone mullabey of Donna Summer and the like. Granted, I'd be wishing for the false teeth fairy if I believed some Gay bars would play rock 'n' roll even half the time. (Sorry, Adam Block. I checked out the Stud a few Monday nites and that snobby dj plays only trendy, tasteful rock like the Talking Heads. He admitted censoring Sex Pistols' records due to their lyrics!!)

There ARE a good lot of Gay rock fans out there just aching to shake their asses out at a Gay bar willing to play some good chunka-chunka rock. And I mean ROCK — like AC/DC, Aerosmith, Cheap Trick, Sweet, Bad Company, Zeppelin, Generation X, Ramones, with some old Stones and Beatles thrown in.

All this baloney about creativity in this Gay community, when it's the same old song in every bar. C'mon, give us a chance! Isn't there one darn bar owner or manager in San Francisco willing to be creative and courageous and play some good dancing rock? Even one nite a week!

Be our Punk Santa Claus — will ya? OK, there will be a "lucrative" market in it, too — Mr. Santa Bill Graham! Honestly, it's much needed in this Gay mecca. Montreal already has one. So, there's no reason not to try it. Contact me at 1430 Larkin. SF 94109, and I'll help it need be.

You can be lovely and limpy, but for gosh sakes, give us some hard rock.

Ken Bern  
San Francisco

## GAY HOUSING

★ The problem of housing discrimination in San Francisco is also faced by poor, disabled Gays (Black and white) who, because of a low fixed-income in the form of County and Government welfare checks, are forced to live in dilapidated buildings and in crime-ridden areas of the Tenderloin. I have been helping these disabled Gays by trying to obtain for them, better and decent housing in other neighborhoods outside the Tenderloin.

I have tried several Gay housing areas of the city such as Haight-Ashbury (no re-named "Mint Hill"), Castro Street, and Hayes Valley. Many of these buildings are managed and/or owned by a certain class of snobbish, uppity, high-falutin' type of Gays who, when I mention that I'm there in behalf of my poor, disabled Gay friends, I am told that they "are sorry, but they only rent to Gay tenants who have high earnings income from a job (their rents are astronomical) and that besides they don't want the Tenderloin kind of people in their buildings."

I say to these wealthy, upper-echelon Gays that by their continuing discriminatory attitude towards the poor, disabled Gay, all that will be accomplished is more unnecessary divisiveness, frustration, dissension and ill-feelings among ourselves and our long struggle for human rights will be completely lost and all our hard-achieved gains in the Gay rights movement will be rendered meaningless.

Edward Doljak  
San Francisco

P.S. Just a few lines to congratulate you for the magnificent job that you and newsy B.A.R. are doing in the S.F. Gay community. There is definitely a need in this city for a very well-put-together publication such as B.A.R. I have sent letters to that other snobbish Gay paper. I guess they just print letters of their own special interest groups and of those individuals who have financial investments in their dubious enterprises, whatever they may be.

## MALE FEMINIST ANGER

★ As a resident of District 5, an Anne Kronenberg supporter, and a feminist, I am sickened (but not at all surprised) by the reactions of some Gay men in the LETTERS section. Sexism and misogyny are very prevalent here in San Francisco. It's unfortunate that some Gay men feel threatened by the assertive and outspoken nature of what they refer to as "butch" Lesbians. In a man such traits are lauded; in women they are condemned. It's easy to see why many Lesbians have chosen to separate themselves from Gay men.

The prospect of having Anne Kronenberg succeed Harvey Milk was a promising one. The coalition of support was not only Lesbians and Gay men (I strongly resent the idea that I was looking for a substitute dominant mother) but straight neighbors in the District as well. Here was an opportunity to have a Lesbian in a position of authority and respect. Maybe this would show that Lesbians could work with Gay men: that we could support each other. Harvey was a feminist, a man who was learning through Anne, among others, the needs of women, Gay and non-Gay. Anne, in turn, was learning about City Hall politics. Granted, she is relatively young and has not developed as a public figure, but that takes time and encouragement. What I do know is that Anne cared. About Harvey, about District 5, about San Francisco. If, after all the political maneuvering which has taken place, she is still willing to take on the monster of City Hall, I will still support her.

In the meantime, I don't want anybody telling me that I don't need Lesbians or that Dianne Feinstein is more my friend than Anne Kronenberg. I can only hope that there are still some Lesbians not too disillusioned to want to work with Gay men where our mutual interests are served. Also, I hope that in time the fears that many Gay men have of women and of strong women in particular may be allayed. We have everything to learn from each other, and it would be a shame to waste the opportunity for knowledge.

David L. Cawley  
San Francisco

★ Marc Troy's letter (B.A.R. Jan. 4) is a disgusting example of Gay male paranoid chauvinism. His opening sentence includes the respectable terms "self-discipline and dignity of purpose." However, his allegation that the Lesbian community is guilty of laying these to waste is nothing less than infuriating and proof that he is in command of neither...

Troy classifies recent Lesbian advances as an "alarming display of bad taste." His belittling of these Gay women is not alarming; unfortunately, it is all too typical of the way things have been for too long. But when it comes to bad taste, he need only re-read his letter to find a first class, repulsive example of it.

Mr. Troy's intention is to caution anyone and everyone to refute what he sees as take-over tactics of the Lesbian community. Indeed, he is well advised to be cautious. The Gay male ego trip that has been our affliction is not only threatened but doomed. We can no longer afford it and we will no longer tolerate it. There will be a take-over, but it will be by conscientious, well-disciplined Gay men and women working together with such a dignity and sense of purpose of which he is wholly ignorant.

Mr. Troy was allotted considerable space in your Jan. 4 issue. I will be waiting anxiously to see if you print this reply.

Rex C. Sander  
San Francisco

## RANDOM THOUGHTS

★ I do not think the Gay movement is hampered by people not "coming out all the way" but by the non-committed who simply feel left out in the cold.

We need a media to take the pulse of the Gay community. For example, a debate on the march to Washington, D.C., could have been published, then pooled.

What do we need a Gay Community Center for? If there is a majority approval of its function, not necessarily the current one, then I feel the financial requirement can easily be filled from our pockets.

Why be classified as a minority? Why not be an elite group? Intellect and wealth exceeds sexuality, but it is the latter that is highly publicized to give us our image.

Davies  
San Francisco

## Police Exam Revisions Help Gay Applicants

Scrapping interviews that inquire into an applicant's background and associations, the San Francisco Civil Service Commission will limit its latest oral exam in recruiting new police officers to testing only ability to communicate.

Thus, according to Civil Service recruitment coordinator Sylvie Jacobson, the potentially greatest anxiety of Gay applicants en route to becoming the nation's first up-front police should be eased.

Odds are increasing that there will be several Gay men and Lesbians in academy training by mid-summer.

Les Morgan, former sheriff's aide now heading an eight-member volunteer group organizing the Gay aspect of the recruitment among minorities, will soon review the group's 250th application for the filing period ending March 9. Exams will encompass nearly all of April and May, but they will be preceded by four

weeks of training — largely for the audio-visual and oral components. Morgan reports there has been a modified physical, and in particular applicants should not be dissuaded by formal standards that they must meet military requirements for induction.

When Civil Service announced its latest police recruitment drive last fall, it included Gays in the special outreach it would make for minority and women officers. Said Jacobson, "People want cops who can talk to them on some level."

The oral exam will test a person's ability to give directions, describe observations, and communicate "morality." Jacobson regards the last as a legitimate police function. "After all," she says, "you've got to be able to explain to teenagers that dropping rocks on cars from an overpass is wrong."

Morgan encourages Gay applicants to contact him, for the volunteer recruitment group will oversee bureaucratic details. (Days, 921-4987; messages, 775-1000) ... BP

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# BRITT'S FIRST MONTH

By Bruce Pettit  
City Correspondent

Supervisor Harry Britt is emerging as the champion of San Franciscans who oppose converting apartments to condominiums. In Britt's first month on the Board of Supervisors, eight proposals for condominiums were decided — six approved, two rejected. But only Britt opposed all eight — even new buildings where tenants were not threatened with displacement.

At one point Britt asked rhetorically, "Do we need directions from the voters about condominium conversions? Do we need a new (city) Master Plan? I'm asking for education as I learn my job." On another occasion the new District 5 Supervisor opposed letting a

developer withdraw a plan in trouble and submit it in more palatable form.

Observers had noted one other major Britt characteristic in his first weeks: his candid admissions that he didn't always know quite what's going on. At his first meeting, he nearly let two chances to establish liberal credentials slip by. While several routine items were passing unanimously, Britt had to call for two votes to be rescinded (a privilege any Board member has) so that he could vote against "contracting out" — letting private firms perform services if the Board finds it's saving city money. After his second meeting, Britt no longer had to ask what an amendment

of the whole is, nor did Board President John Molinari have to lecture him to raise his microphone as a signal for recognition.

The Supervisor is one of the most active city officials as he meets with numerous citizens and attends endless straight and Gay civic affairs.

Britt's severest tests lie ahead — in April through June when the city must make even harder choices than last year in crafting its second Prop. 13 budget.

Here are Britt's major Board actions during his political honeymoon as the successor to Harvey Milk:

- Introduced a two-year moratorium on new bars, cabarets and restaurants in the Castro/Market area.

- Supported Mayor Dianne Feinstein's compromise settle-

ment for recruiting and promoting ethnic minorities and women in the police department after the aggrieved groups accepted its terms. (Measure passed 7-3)

- Supported a Board policy statement that opposed demolition of the International Hotel. (Measure passed 6-4.) Remembering former Sheriff Richard Hongisto, Britt believed the Supervisors should be prepared to do anything to save the housing-speculation symbol — "including spending a few days in the slammer."

- Opposed urging Congress to investigate the tax exempt status of the People's Temple in light of its political activity. (Measure passed 9-2.) Aligned with only Ella Hill Hutch, Britt remarked, "In this resolution is a tone that any political activity of a church is questionable. It is out of the question to call into question the exercise of conscience by churches."

- Supported Carol Ruth Silver's "sunset legislation" to require every city board, commission and department to justify its existence at least every six years. (Measure rejected 5-6.)

- Supported Silver's attempt to replace former Supervisor Peter Tamaras on the Golden Gate Bridge Board with a woman. (Measure rejected 4-6.) Seeing a need to correct tendencies for all-male boards, Britt elaborated, "I'd also like to see a Lesbian appointed."

## No New Castro Bars? City Hearings Set

Some Castro area residents feel they are being forced out of their homes and parking spaces by businesses and the patrons they attract from throughout the Bay Area. A hearing is tentatively set for March 8 before a Board of Supervisors' committee to determine whether the problem is so intense that no new bar, cabaret, and restaurant permits should be issued for two years.

Supervisor Harry Britt last week introduced an ordinance that, if passed, would establish the two-year moratorium so the whole situation can be fully analyzed. The proposed Britt ordinance suggests that — at the conclusion of the two-year study — substantially changed business and parking regulations could result.

Britt expressed to B.A.R. his concern that the ordinance might be perceived in some quarters as anti-Gay. Nearly all of the 20 bars and restaurants in the six-square-block area are Gay-managed and Gay-patronized.

Harvey Milk, Britt's predecessor on the Board, arranged the drafting of the ordinance last year at the request of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association (EVPA).

EVPA president Lee

Mentley, who is Gay, said his organization is opposed "to further encroachment" of more bars and more non-neighborhood people. He said there are enough entertainment spots for people in the neighborhood, and he wants to hold merchants to their promise — extracted by EVPA — to direct marketing concerns to the neighborhood and not to the whole city.

Robert Massotti, an owner of the Nothing Special, opposed the moratorium contending most area residents are elderly and without cars. In addition, he said, "We as bar owners should not say there should be no further competition." He believes multiple businesses help each other by mutually attracting customers.

Jay Noonan of the Castro Cafe, however, agreed with EVPA that the area is saturated so completely that the moratorium would "not hurt."

Steve Wick, emphasizing he was speaking for himself and not for the Midnight Sun where he is an assistant manager, regarded the ordinance as "nit-picking" and thought the future of the area should be determined by "the natural laws of economics." . . . BP

## District 5: 14 Possible Candidates

Supervisor Harry Britt has filed an "intent" to be on the ballot on November 6. This entitles him to raise funds for his candidacy. Britt was appointed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein in District 5 following an extensive search.

Intent statements have also been filed for the seat by Bob Ross, B.A.R. publisher; Chuck Morris, *Sentinel* publisher; and columnist Tom Edwards — all well known upfront Gay people. They have been joined by Margarie Martin, a well known homophobe whose literature is frequently tacked to downtown telephone poles, and four relative unknowns: Ronald Carnevale, Charles Bennett, Richard Stypmann, and Michael Van Pelt.

Anne Kronenberg, former aide to Milk, has not announced her intent. Analysts indicate that possible candidates may be Kay Pachtner, who received a substantial vote in District 5 when she ran for City Treasurer; Atty. Terence Hallinan, who finished second in the 1977 race against Harvey Milk; and Atty. Claire Pilcher, member of the city's Public Utilities Commission.

It is expected that many names will be added as upfront candidates when the formal filing period (Aug. 23-Sept. 7) concludes. During this period candidates must pay a \$192 filing fee or produce the signatures of 768 supporters in the district. The city election is November 6. If no candidate gets a majority, the two top finishers vie for the position in the runoff on December 11 . . . BP, GM

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With drawn butter.	
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### Integrity, Dignity, Unitarians Plan Forums, Masses, Socials

A large variety of activities, both religious and social, are planned by three local Gay religious groups: Integrity, Gay Episcopalians; Dignity, Gay Catholics; and the Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus.

The Unitarian group has a Sunday series, coordinated by David Harrell. This Sunday's session features Charles Gilman, owner of the local Walt Whitman Bookshop, who will discuss poignant stories about letters he receives, tempered with his humor. John Burks, editor of KQED's Focus Magazine, will discuss his 17

years as a journalist/educator on February 25, and Dr. Bill Owen will speak on March 4 about his founding of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, a Gay doctors group with 300 members. The series is at 9:45am Sundays in The Chapel, 1187 Franklin Street. Telephone 777-2950 for information.

Dignity will have a home mass and party at 8:00pm on Saturday, Feb. 17, at Wolf & Earl's, 5917 Harbor View, San Pablo, followed by a Sunday mass on the 18th at 6:00pm at St. John of God, 5th and Irving in San Francisco. A rap session will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 at 901 Vermont (call 641-0674). Other activities are scheduled for later in the month. Telephone 641-0674 for information.

Integrity plans a picnic, weekend retreat and numerous speakers in its schedule. The next monthly meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 7:00pm at Grace Cathedral House and will feature a film. Plans are underway for a garage sale on April 28 and attendance at the national convention in Denver in September. Information may be obtained by writing Integrity, Box 6444, San Jose 95150.

★ ★ ★

Two publications are of special interest to Gay readers: *A Bibliography on Sexism* published by the Gay Lutherans Concerned group, and *A Time to Speak* which is published for Gay Catholics by New Ways Ministry. The Catholic book is a collection of contemporary statements about homosexuality, social justice and the Gay ministry. Its publisher is New Ways Ministry, 3312 Buchanan Street #302, Mt. Rainier, MD 20822. The bibliography is an annotated listing of 89 available books, tapes and films that deal with women and Gay people, emphasizing religious works. Information may be obtained from Howard Erickson in Los Angeles, (213) 663-7816.

B.A.R. has learned that the Lutheran bishops of Denmark

have rejected a request from a group of theologians who wanted the bishops to approve same-sex "unions." Bishop K. C. Holm told the press that the bishops "possess no competency whatever to introduce new church functions."

### MCC Activities

Metropolitan Community Church has Volleyball on Thursday nights at 7:00pm at Lowell High Gym (Muni #18, #72), Bowling on Mondays at 8:30 at the Japan Bowl (Muni #2, #22, #38). A members "pot luck" dinner (M-R) will be at 1370 Gilman Ave. on Feb. 15 with a second "pot luck" (S-Z) on Feb. 22 at 533A Castro. Choir practice is Wednesdays at 8:30pm.

Sunday services are at 1:00 and 7:15pm with midweek services at 7:00pm with guest ministers. The sanctuary is at 23rd and Capp Streets. Offices are at 1076 Guerrero; telephone 285-0392.

### Sha'ar Zahav Sets Special Meeting

Gay Jews in the Bay Area continue to meet under the Sha'ar Zahav (Golden Gate) banner at Dovre Hall, 3543 18th Street (at Valencia) on Friday nights at 8:00pm. Included is a religious service and a social.

The entire congregation will gather for the semi-annual meeting after the March 2 service at Dovre.

Guests are welcome for all events. Readers may write to the group at Box 5640, SF 94101, or telephone 626-3131.

### Marks Attacks Briggs' Lies

"Proposed employment legislation would require an Affirmative Action Program for every employer, including you, to hire a TYPICAL homosexual and prohibit your firing a homosexual for publicly or privately practicing homosexuality."

This is the interpretation of AB-1, SB-3 and SB-18 (proposed state bills assuring equality in employment for Gay people) being circulated by State Senator John Briggs. Briggs was the author of the ill-fated initiative on the 1978 ballot that would have barred Gay teachers from employment.

State Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) has attacked Briggs for his circular to other legislators because it misrepresents the proposed legislation. Marks told B.A.R. that the senator either has not read the bill, does not understand it, or that he understands it but is misleading his colleagues.

Marks, author of SB-3, told his colleagues, "Nowhere in SB-3 are any affirmative action

provisions set forth or implied. He added the objective analysis of the Legislative Council: "The bill would not create any affirmative action rights or preferential treatment for homosexual persons."

The Republican legislator concluded, "I hope that when this bill is heard, members will base their consideration upon its merits and the specific language which it employs and not upon allegations which have no basis in fact."

### Gain Charges 15 SF Policemen

In an unprecedented action, 15 San Francisco police officers have been charged with improper conduct — from threatening citizens to unlawful arrests. Two have resigned from the force because they could not handle their alcoholic problems.

The charges filed by Police Chief Charles Gain will mean hearings before the Police Commission for possible disciplinary action. Two special commission sessions will be set aside for the hearings.

It is not known if the accused included Sgt. Edward Foley, who has been charged in a police complaint of threatening the life of Gay activist Hank Wilson and other improper police conduct in the Tenderloin area. Gain transferred Foley to North Beach following the accusations.

The secretary to the Police Commission, Lt. Willie Frazier, said that the large number of officers involved establishes clearly that "Chief Gain means business when he says that police officers guilty of improper conduct or the use of excessive force will be dealt with, but justly."

### Dan White Pleads Innocent

Former Supervisor Dan White pled "not guilty" last week to charges that he murdered Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

White reserved the right to later change the plea to "not guilty by reason of insanity." His trial in Superior Court is set to begin March 26. Judge Claude Perasso revoked White's \$1 million bail, saying, "This is not a bailable offense."

Defense attorney Doug Schmidt was granted his motion for access to police records that authorized Supervisors to carry concealed weapons and to police files on threats to Board members. It is expected that Schmidt will try to counter premeditation charges by documenting that it was not unusual last year for Supervisors to carry guns.

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## Politics & People

### CHRA — Can We Save It?

Wayne Friday

One of the most important visible organizations fighting for the rights of Gay people is the California Human Rights Advocates — the CHRA is the only statewide lobbying organization that works full-time to advance the rights of Gay people. CHRA sponsors a professional lobbyist in Sacramento and CHRA's internship program helps to increase lobbying skills in the Gay community.

CHRA began on May 1, 1977, as two organizations, Northern and Southern California Rights Advocates. Their sole purpose was to "encourage the passage of California state legislation favorable to

and discourage legislation unfavorable to the social, psychological, legal, economic, and political rights of Lesbians and Gay men and Gay organizations." In January 1978 the two organizations united to become California Human Rights Advocates. A second purpose was added. It was "to inform and educate Lesbians, Gay men, and Gay rights supporters throughout California of pending Gay rights legislation and of appropriate action to be taken."

Only once before in the two years of writing this column (during the NO ON 6 fight) have I ever made a pitch for funds, but we are in danger of

losing our lobbyist in Sacramento, and they badly need help. CHRA is no longer financially able to do the job of lobbying. It is solely funded by our contributions, and CHRA cannot afford to pay the transportation for people testifying at hearings in Sacramento; it cannot even afford to send out its monthly newsletter. CHRA can no longer afford to maintain a full-time staff, and in fact is now in debt to its current lobbyist, Steve Badeau, a bright, hardworking, dedicated man who has been working for a small salary, on which he must maintain a residence in Sacramento, pay his own transportation, and commit himself full-time to the job.

Consequently, Steve has now resigned as our lobbyist and as executive director of CHRA, but has agreed to continue in the role as legislative advocate on a voluntary basis. A voluntary lobbyist in Sacramento is inadequate. However, if CHRA is somehow able to pay off its debts and accumulate enough assets to guarantee a three-month budget, Steve would be interested in being rehired. He has the experience, knows those legislators, and knows his way around the Capital.

The irony here is that 1979 is the year we need that lobbyist the most; 1979 may be our best year for a chance to pass legislation such as AB-1, SB-3, and SB-18. AB-1 will prevent businesses from discriminating against people because of their sexual orientation and will prohibit on-the-job sexual harassment of employees.

Recently CHRA organized over 250 Gays and their supporters to come to Sacramento and lobby legislators over AB-1, SB-3 and SB-18. Assemblyman Art Agnos, one of the best supporters we have in Sacramento, recently said, "This year and next year and for as many years as it takes, I will push as hard as I know how to secure human rights legislation in California." Agnos said further, "I am confident that with the work of CHRA in Sacramento we will be successful in this vital effort." Senator Milton Marks, probably the most loyal friend we have in the State Senate, says the CHRA is "vitally important" to the passage of human rights legislation in Sacramento.

Currently, \$5,000 is needed to pay off its debts. More importantly, it needs a solid financial base to operate from every month. CHRA has a pledge system called the "Champions Club." This is a system where individuals commit to contribute a specified amount of money each month (i.e., \$10, \$25, \$35); CHRA sends out monthly reminders to these "Champions." This is the heart of CHRA's financial planning. Help is desperately needed now — for information on holding a benefit for CHRA, or to send a contribution, please, write CHRA, P.O. Box 2103, Sacramento, CA 95810 (checks should be made out to "California Human Rights Advocates").

Wayne Friday

## Demo Party Chair Meets Gay Leaders

### SACRAMENTO

John White, National Chair of the Democratic Party, met with 20 members of the Gay Caucus in a private suite during the party's January 19-21 state convention here.

Gerry Parker, Northern Caucus Chair, reviewed for White those actions that the caucus is requesting: that President Carter issue an Executive Order granting equality to Gay people in all aspects of legal rights, that the party endorse the adding of "sexual preference" to the guarantees under the Civil Rights Act of 1965, and that he personally promote a Gay Rights plank in the national platform in 1979-1980. Los Angeles activist Morris Kight reviewed the growth of Gay political activism for White.

The Democratic official told the group that Gay people must realize that their human rights demands may have strength in California, New York and Massachusetts, but that in the rest of the country "this is a negative issue."

While recognizing the growth

to remain non-combative.

Parker and Democratic party activist Frank Fitch reported the White meeting to B.A.R. News Editor George Mendenhall, who was asked to leave the meeting before White's appearance. Some caucus members felt that the presence of a reporter would hamper the scheduled discussion with White.

Fitch told B.A.R. that White was told that party officials should not place all Gay people in one category, that while some may be willing to work within the party and be non-combative, there are others who may not agree with that approach. White responded that if there was an attempt by some Gays to confront the party with a mass demonstration that it would be counterproductive.

There is current discussion among some activists that a Gay march on the 1980 Democratic convention would be more productive than a contemplated march on Washington.



John White, Democratic Party National Chair, reacts to California activists.

of Gay activism in establishment politics, he said that the movement must work within the party, forming alliances and not get involved in "confrontation" politics.

White said that confrontations that may have been effective in the 1960's no longer sway delegates or him personally. He said this approach to winning demands is not now being responded to. The official urged Gay activists to work within the party to form coalitions with other minorities and

The meeting with White was arranged by Charles Manatt, former chair of the California Democratic Party who is now chair of the National Democratic Finance Committee. Manatt attended the meeting with Wallace Albertson, chair of the grass-roots California Democratic Council. The idea for arranging the session and the planning of the historic meeting was by Parker.

Fitch and Parker told B.A.R. that the meeting was "historic"

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with Parker adding, "Our movement has come to the point where we can sit down with the national chair of the largest political party in this country and press our political agenda, raising the party's consciousness with respect to the political issues that impact on

the lives of Lesbians and Gay men."

Fitch concluded, "It was a most significant development. He would not have met with us unless he thought it was important."

## Politics & Poker...

The Dan White murder trial set to begin March 26 at 9:30am before Superior Court Judge Claude Perasso... meanwhile, some bleeding heart firemen busily selling raffle tickets to benefit the so-called "Mary Ann White Fund"... friends of Charter Commissioner Frank Fitch holding a party in his honor tonight (Thurs.) to celebrate his birthday and help pay off his campaign debt (call 861-4881 for info)... actor Ed Asner hosted a party in L.A. benefiting the Moscone Fund that raised \$10,000... Quentin Kopp annoyed at the Feinstein people again; Kopp is certain that Feinstein's backers are the ones who keep the rumor alive that Quentin is thinking of pulling out of the Mayor's race to try for D.A. (wishful thinking on the Mayor's part, says Kopp)...

Lesbian comic Robin Tyler told the *Examiner* that if someone asked her to, she would change her residency from L.A. to move to San Francisco to run for Mayor (now THAT'S funny — in fact, probably as funny as Ms. Tyler has ever been; you DO remember when they couldn't get her off the stage at the NO ON 6 rally, don't you?)... Midge Costanza in town last week, blasting those politicians who "are glad to accept the support of Gays while running for office but shunned those same Gays as being 'too hot to handle' when it comes to taking a public stand on their rights once in office"... Costanza, incidentally, says she will accept a job offer in either New York City or Los Angeles... the *Examiner's* columnist Kevin Starr says Joe Alioto will definitely run for Mayor this year, and as an old Alioto crony, he should know... indeed, it looks like November will see a cast of Kopp, Marks, Feinstein, Furth and Alioto, plus a host of minor candidates... Leo McCarthy stepping up his critical attacks on the Brown administration... sources in New York say that final confirmation of Dick Hongisto as head of that state's 20,000-inmate prison system in serious trouble... Bella Abzug due in town next week... Jerry Brown spent \$3.25 million on his re-election campaign — the state record in a gubernatorial race...

The Gay Freedom Day Band was a hit of the Chinese New Year Parade... Milton Marks received a standing ovation at the Coronation Ball last Saturday — others well received were John Molinari, Carol Ruth Silver, Harry Britt, Lee Dolson, Willie Brown, Jane Murphy, Lillian Sing (the Mayor sent a wire)... staff members report that Senators Hayakawa and Cranston becoming friends despite their

political and philosophical differences... Ron Lanza to become first serious up-front Gay candidate for Mayor?... *Sentinel* publisher Chuck Morris planning to run for supe in District 5... Supervisor Gordon Lau and the late Harvey Milk had become good friends and Milk often told me that Lau was a friend Gays could trust... Chief Gain tells

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me he is getting along well with Mrs. Feinstein... don't pay any attention to those Agnost for Mayor rumors... Bill Kraus new president of the Harvey Milk Gay Demo Club...

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## Womanalysis Police and Power

by Priscilla Alexander

There is currently a drive to recruit Lesbians and Gay men to work as police officers with the San Francisco Police Department. There is also currently an apparent increase in the use of "excessive force" in arrests, and an increase in the amount of police harassment of Lesbians, Gay men, and prostitutes.

We all know that Mayor Feinstein has called for a "clean-up" of the Tenderloin.

We are being told that it will be a clean-up of violent crime, but the calls that we get at COYOTE HOWLS, and that the Pre-Trial Diversion Project, the Public Defender's Office, Harry Britt's and Carol Ruth Silver's offices get, are not about people being arrested for violent crime.

Working at COYOTE HOWLS, I am familiar with the situation that prostitutes are confronted with. But I think it is safe to assume that what happens to prostitutes is repeated with other population groups, particularly those that do not

Something seems to happen when people become cops. Maybe a lot of them are hung up on power to begin with, maybe that's why they become cops. I think a lot of people also become cops because it is a way out of poverty. Some must choose that occupation because they are really concerned about preventing crime, or controlling it, and making the world a safer place for people. But I doubt if most of them are like that.

If someone is a cop because he or she wants power, how do we, as a society, prevent them from abusing that power? The recent settlement of the Officers for Justice suit against the San Francisco Police Department promises to increase the number of minorities and women on the police force. The goal for women is twenty per cent.

The presence of women on the police force is a fairly new

### Will large numbers of Gay men and Lesbians on the police force make a difference, or will they, too, be brutalized?

conform to the white, middle class, heterosexual model.

Last year, 2,100 women and 512 men were arrested, as prostitutes, for "soliciting" an undercover police officer for an act of prostitution. But everyone who works with prostitutes in any way hears, over and over again, variations on a theme of "I was walking down the street, and this man asked me for a date. I said no. He kept insisting, and I kept saying no. All of a sudden, this other cop says I am under arrest for 'soliciting.'" Or, "...I was standing waiting for my friend, and this guy kept asking me to go for a drink or a cup of coffee. I kept saying no. I was waiting for someone. Finally, I said, 'Look, I am not hooking, and I know you are a cop. Get lost.' He busted me for 'soliciting.'"

phenomenon in this country, at least with any large numbers. In Israel, women have served on the police force for years. I have no idea whether or not they become brutal, but Susan Brownmiller, in her book "Against Our Will," said that the only armies that had no record of raping the women in a country they conquered were the two in which women served in more or less equal numbers, Israel being one of them.

Some women have been working on the San Francisco Police Force, and in the Sheriff's Department, for more than a year, now. Some of them have become as brutal as some of the men. Some of the women on the police force have been required to do vice detail (as contrasted to the

male involvement, which is voluntary) to stand on street corners and be solicited by men (320 male customers were arrested last year). They hate it, and they tend to hate prostitutes. They pick up the attitudes of the male vice cops, whose contempt for prostitutes is revealed in the easy way they lie (some of them never vary their police reports by even one word).

One of the reasons for the recruitment of Lesbians, other women, and Gay men is a hope that their presence may open up the force to new ways of thinking. But there is a real question as to whether their presence will change the police, or whether the police force will brutalize the Lesbians and Gay men. Will they become abusers of power, swinging billy clubs and pulling out guns to impress their power over others? Will they, as some cops do now, develop a sense of "It's us against the world"? Or is it possible that if a large number of us, most of whom choose to deal with the world in non-standard ways, joined the force it would begin to change?

I want a society without violence. I want a world in which people care about each other and never do anything with another person without that person's total and free consent. We are a long way from that society. Meanwhile, the police department is encouraging us to apply. If you are interested, call Les Morgan, 921-4987 (days), 775-1000 (messages) and/or go to Room 151, City Hall, to file an application. And tell other people.

### Fighting Back: How to Cope with the Medical, Emotional and Legal Consequences of Rape

by Janet Bode  
Macmillan - \$8.95

I came to Ms. Bode's study encrusted with ignorance of

Complaints about bad arrests come in spurts. There will be months during which we receive no calls, and then there will be five or six calls within a couple of weeks — usually during a crackdown.

Most of the time, the arrested person pleads guilty to the lesser charge of disturbing the peace, just to get it over with. In actual courtroom experience, if a person charged with soliciting an act of prostitution pleads not guilty, the charges are usually dropped or the case ends in acquittal, at least in San Francisco. Of the 2,612 647(b) arrests last year, probably most of them were bad arrests. To me that is a gross abuse of power.

The recent arrest of Sue Davis and Shirley Wilson, with the amount of force that was used, seems to me to be a similar abuse. The harassment that is taking place on Polk and Castro Streets, with cops carrying their billy clubs in a usable position, with men who have every right to be there being asked to produce I.D., is another abuse of power.



JANET BODE, AUTHOR OF STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF RAPE

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what rape was all about (and I imagine an all-too-typical misunderstanding and insensitivity). The author makes a powerful case and the book changed my thinking on the subject.

Among its chief premises is that rape "far from being sexual is a violent assault on the body, mind, and the spirit." That society (as with no other crime) more often than not blames the victim than the assailant. And that those agencies set up to aid victims (the police, medical staffs, the prosecuting attorneys) in the case of rape often compound the trauma.

Janet Bode has lived in San Francisco for six years as a lecturer, writer, and researcher. Her first major study, *View From Another Closet: Exploring Bisexuality in Women*, was published in 1976. She is currently at work on a third book, *Kids Having Kids*, a study of teenage sexuality and pregnancy.

Bode in *Fighting Back* has drawn from the experiences of countless women (including her own). The morass of statistics: police, medical, legal. She has surveyed the groups and agencies who are engaged in turning around the nation's thinking and handling of the subject, and offers advice on how to deal with a rape victim.

*Fighting Back* is an angry book, and perhaps with degree of insouciance that prevails it had to be.

Paul-Francis Hartmann

**Wives Who Love Women**  
by Jane Scott  
Walker - \$9.95

Some of the Gay men I know have strange, myopic ideas. After expressing the usual plea for Gay liberation for them, the men will do a strange flip-flop and exclaim, "But the idea of two women making love! God! How abnormal!"

Certain priests I know will also support sexual liberation but throw up their hands in horror at the mere suggestion that women be allowed into the priesthood. Others, at this point, will ask, "Why read a book about Lesbians?"

But I hope that men of all sexual persuasions will read what Jane Scott has to tell us. We, as males, need to explore our worn prejudices as they apply to the opposite sex. And I'm not speaking in the heterosexual frame of reference.

Jane Scott, a pseudonym for a writer of romances and children's books, lives in Orange County with her husband and teenage son. But satisfied she is not. The love of another woman is missing. She seems trapped by both cultural taboo and marriage itself. Our heroine haunts Gay rap sessions, coffee klatches, and other social gatherings; and she finally locates the object of her desire, Amy.

Oddly enough, the husbands in both homes are strangely co-operative and understanding.

Jane's husband, Russ, is a macho sort who is not interested in such bourgeoisie nonsense as child rearing and sharing vacations with his family. He leaves everything to the wife.

Amy is constantly racked by guilt and self-doubt; yet Jane courts her in a most determined manner. In the end we still wonder if the match will endure. Apparently Jane is able to balance all the opposing elements in this complicated triangle of wife, family and Lesbian lover. She demonstrates that after the age of fifty life can still just begin.

Being a Lesbian is complication enough, but when you add a whole family to the brew, we can imagine the extra problems and pain. But for some people, the combinations work.

We find ourselves intrigued by husbands like Russ who are strangely passive in the family interactions. Why is it that he will not go on trips with the family? What is he trying to avoid? How does he really feel about his wife's attraction to other women? Does he secretly approve of it? Perhaps he simply doesn't care what two women do together.

Scott tends to overwrite at times and gush on too romantically. But her story enables us to appreciate the dilemma of the female of the Gay species and how our social order conspires to keep her imprisoned in a sea of babies and kitchen mops.

Every minority group tends to raise itself by stepping on the toes of another minority. Thus, many Gay men shun Gay

women on their way up the ladder to freedom. *Wives Who Love Women* can perhaps bring all of us into one camp, at least for a time.

Frank J. Howell



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## Sweet Lips Sez

by Dick Walters

Thank you, Bob Cramer, for one of the most fantastic performances that this and any other city has seen, the Annual Cable Car Awards. It was one of the most entertaining and fast-moving events ever to be held. And a special thanks to Chuck Largent and Gary Darling for winning for the Best Poster, Best Sets for the Beaux Arts Ball, and for presenting yours truly with one of the awards at Le Disque. Do hope that you will consider becoming Chairman of the Beaux Arts Ball if you are asked, Bob Cramer, because you have your shit together... hi, Art.

As of this day when this paper is being distributed, the Annual "Lithuanian Party" is being held at the Gangway... Daddy Joe puts on one of the finest parties that this city has ever seen... just who shall be Miss Lithuania for 1979-80? We know; don't we, Gary Abbot?

Thank you, B. Hinds of the Kumbuck Klub, for all, yes all, of the help the other afternoon.

Yes, you can still find the one and only Kristal with a 'K' at Ginger's in the downtown area, and doing a great job according to Ginger Rogers.

Again a nice 'Thank you' to Blossom of the Carriage Trade Florist for the great job he did on the Red Gazebos at the Empress/Emperor Coronation Ball.

A nice welcome home to Russ and Jim of the White Swallow after their great three-week vacation... which one got the "brownest"... we know; don't we, Gary?

If you happen to go to Monterey, stop into the After Dark and tell them that Gary of the White Swallow and Dixon of the "P.S." (who has ten comp drink tickets for one of the staff) say HI and do come up for a visit.

A benefit for 'Duffy,' formerly (before Kenny Allison beat him up) of the Wooden Horse, next Sunday, the 18th, at the Kokpit from 4 till 5 with all bar receipts going to help Duffy's hospital bills... this will teach you not to fool around with a MAN, Duffy!

Thank you again, Jimmy Quinn, for picking up the OLD picture of the fabulous Rose Buckley taken in 19... we wouldn't disclose the year, but she certainly was pretty.

Hope everyone had a nice Valentine's Day as we did at the Twin Peaks auction that raised untold monies for that lovely 'Smith' couple that has been burned out four times... Sometimes we can really be

proud of the straight and Gay communities on how they help each other.

Thank you, Henri Leleu, for the great picture of Mame that shall be sent to the Court of Vancouver for the "Hanging of Mame" in Vancouver during their coronation weekend in late March... this should be one of the fun-filled events of that weekend... hi, Jim Brandt!

Remember, we have TWO (2) great baseball leagues this year — the C.S.L. and the G.S.L... no matter who you think is the greatest, get out and support the teams, as they are what part of Gay life is all about; right, Tony Nemger?

Don't forget that the "P.S." is still one of the hottest restaurants on Polk Street... there are drinks, food and (?) for everyone there; so drop by and say hi... especially to Polk Street Sally... Up on Castro, have you tried the new Patio Cafe?

The next Tavern Guild meeting shall be held at the Mint, 1942 Market Street, on Tuesday, Feb. 20... don't miss these meetings, as they are very important to the Gay community... they are not only bar oriented, but everyone is welcome to find out just what the Tavern Guild is doing for all of us.

Kimo wants to squelch all the rumors flying about... it wasn't a bomb; it wasn't arson — just too many plugs in a hot socket.

## SF Activists to Attend March Meet

Two San Francisco activists, Brandy Moore and Wendy Levine, have been chosen in a public meeting of 60 people to represent this city at a national March on Washington meeting in Philadelphia. The Feb. 23-24 session will decide if there is to be a march and if there is one when the date will be. The local group favors the march for the Fall of 1979. Alternates who may go to Philadelphia are Howard Wallace and Loree Cook.

Local march supporters believe the capital demonstration should center on demands that President Carter, Congress, and the Supreme Court should all act to end discrimination against Gay people.

Ben Gardiner, a local march supporter, told B.A.R. that he is willing to answer questions about the proposed event. His telephone number is 626-1245.

Morris Kight, a major Gay activist in Los Angeles, told B.A.R. that he was going to the conference to tell those present that he opposes the expenditure of money and energy that would be necessary for the venture. Kight will be joined in Philadelphia by several Los Angeles activists: Ivy Bottini, Tony Karnes, Don Amador, and Frank Vel.

Kight said that he would be proposing an alternative to a Washington march. This would be a 4-year "scenario of our getting better acquainted with how government works, finding out how and where we can be most effective, visiting national and local legislators in our home towns, and developing a focus on a yet-to-be-created national agenda of concerns."

It was estimated by David Mixner, a Los Angeles activist who helped organize the major anti-Vietnam war marches on Washington, that considerable money would be necessary to produce a large demonstration. This would mean many months of fund-raising.

When the march might be held continues to be debated among activists throughout the country with a consensus that July 4, 1979, which had been proposed by the late Supervisor Harvey Milk, would be too early for proper planning. Mixner told B.A.R. that a march should be held later in the year to attract college students while they are in school. In an earlier vote, San Francisco march enthusiasts voted for an October date. Wallace now thinks that September, just after school opens, is becoming the more popular time-slot. Whether this would be in 1979 or 1980 is undetermined.

One difficulty that some local activists believe they may face at the Philadelphia meet is that some will present a large agenda of demands for the march which might confuse the media and the public. Mixner told B.A.R. that two or three demands would be the maximum in order to be effective.

The Philadelphia Ad Hoc Committee that is calling the conference circulated a flyer stating that women and men should have a balanced representation if there is voting at the meeting, suggesting that if the sessions are dominated by males, some males should not be permitted to vote.

The circular suggested that there is already dissension among the organizers. Mixner had urged that there would not be an effective march if internal politics was a continuing problem. He said all participating must be united on not trying to "do it ourselves" as amateurs. He said there must be professional, paid fund-raisers and professional, paid staff people who know what they are doing... GM

Some men have got it... And some men would like to get it. So move it... with a B.A.R. classified ad.



## Guilty: Assault

### SEATTLE

Gordon Roberto and his friend Don Ford have been found guilty here in Municipal Court of assaulting two Gay males and their female companion outside of a Gay disco, the Brass Door. The men sentenced had been joined by three of their companions in the attack after one of the assailants shouted, "Queers!"



**GORDON ROMERO**  
Seattle assailant found Guilty of attacking Gays.

Three of the five men were questioned and released.

Judge Barbara Yanick was visibly angry when she made the Guilty ruling. She indicated that there would be restitution ordered as part of her later sentencing.

Two of those attacked had numerous bruises and cuts; one had a broken nose.

## D.C. Mayor Elected With Crucial Gay Vote

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Gay votes have been decisive in electing the District of Columbia's second home-rule mayor.

Marion Barry was the D.C. school board president when he led passage of a ban on firing Gay teachers. Later as a city councilman, he discouraged an attempted anti-Gay voter referendum and sought to ease restrictions on Gay parents.

According to editor Ralph Goff of the D.C. Metropolitan Community Church newsletter, Barry would have finished third instead of first in last September's Democratic primary without his strong showing in precincts with high Gay concentrations and energy.

The three-year-old Gertrude Stein Democratic Club had given Barry his earliest endorsement (last March) and accompanied it with a \$1,000 check. The eight-year-old Gay Activist Alliance estimated it registered 4,000 new Gay voters.

Paul Kuntzler, a director of the Gay Rights National Lobby,

targeted 21 key precincts. Casting 15% of the city's Democratic primary votes, they went 56% for Barry as the rest of the city gave him 30%.

Afterwards in the general election campaign, Republican nominee Arthur Fletcher accused Barry of creating "a morally unhealthy environment" for youth by Barry's stand for Gay rights.

Barry ignored the attack and eventually defeated Fletcher 70-28%. Both the *Washington Post* and *Washington Star* reported that Gay support had been a factor in the Barry victory.

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## Game Cancelled

This weekend's basketball tournament has been cancelled. The games were scheduled between the Castro Village Community Basketball Team and New York City's Greenwich Village Team.

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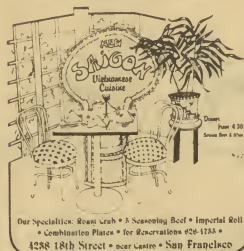
## Cable Car Awards Honor Marks & Dymally

The fifth annual Cable Car Awards were presented on Sunday evening, February 4, at the Galleria. The awards are presented each year in recognition of distinguished service and achievement by the San Francisco Gay community.

John Molinari, the newly-elected President of the city's Board of Supervisors, presented the Human Rights Award to two men who have

long shown support of the Gay rights cause. Former Lieutenant Governor Mervyn Dymally was in Los Angeles and unable to attend to accept his award. State Senator Milton Marks was present to accept his award. He reminded the audience that the Republican Party had originally been formed to fight oppression. Marks and Molinari both expressed hope that the G.O.P. would return to its honorable roots. In his acceptance speech Senator Marks pledged to continue his fight to eradicate every vestige of discrimination in the State of California. He added, "I receive many awards, but this one means much more to me because it comes from my friends; from people I have worked with for many, many years."

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Rehearsal time for the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps and chorus at the Galleria. (Photo by Guy Cory)

of the arts in California, taking away \$200,000 from the opera complex in funds originally derived from hotel tax.

Mr. Heymont added that the Gay community makes a major contribution to the arts and entertainment professions in three phases, "First: financial. Many of us buy tickets and add in above the cost of admission to add support. Second, the unbelievable wealth of talent which rests within the Gay community. Third, and most important, is the incredible power of word of mouth. That force has started more performers than you could possibly believe on the road to a major career."

The evening was studded with entertainment by local performers. Sharon McKnight delivered a loving tribute to San Francisco. David Reign appeared with performers from Chez Jacques in various cabaret medleys. The highlight of the evening came with the appearance of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, 152 voices under the leadership of Dick Kramer. Their delivery of "People" and "He's My Brother" was outstanding. If Ed Sullivan were alive, they would have had a contract in their hands before they left the hall.

Jon Sims led the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps in a new version of "If My Friends Could See Me Now" and "MacArthur Park." A special delight was the appearance of Joe Poltrone, National Twirling Champion of 1974, whose incredible act brought down the house.



1979 Co-chairs of the Gay Freedom Day Parade, Sue Davis and Robert "Smitty" Smith. (Photo by Guy Cory)

## Madrigals at Old Mission

Chanticleer, a small men's vocal ensemble, will perform a new edition of William Byrd's MASS IN FOUR PARTS with English madrigals and folk

songs at Old Mission Dolores (Dolores at 16th), 8:30pm, on Saturday, March 3. The performance will be repeated on Sunday at 8:00pm.

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# SOUTH-BAY CHRONICLE

RUZ CAMPBELL HAYWARD OAKLAND FREMONT BERKELEY WALNUT CREEK VALLEJO PLEASANT HILL

## Points South, East, & North

by Gene

### OAKLAND

The combined efforts of The Lake Merritt Hotel, Lake Lounge, Zephyr Lounge, The Lancers, Grandma's House, along with all the people involved paid off this weekend. The Tony Valentine Benefit for Children's Hospital netted over \$1,000. The function was beautiful, great entertainment, excellent buffet, and good company. Oakland and Hayward were well represented. Indeed, they made up the majority of the guests, and San Francisco attendance was nil — as usual.

Grandma's House will reopen this week with the dining room remodeled especially for disco lovers — nice news to hear. On the other side of the lake, The Lancers has their license back, so hot disco is back in. The Zephyr Lounge will feature Billy De Frank in the Club Car Showroom on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16 and 17, from 9:30 till 1:30. Remember, at the Zephyr you have the option of dancing to the latest disco or catching the show, both happen at the same time (in different rooms, of course).

### HAYWARD

It warmed my heart to see the crowd that turned out for the Cotillion this past weekend. Billed as a swearing-in ceremony for Gay Sheriff I Tony and his Court, and a ball with entertainment and dancing, this year the togetherness and show of care for each other again proved why Hayward gets things done. Something else, there were many young people in the under 21 age group on hand for the festivities that you won't find even in San Francisco. And I might add that when Hayward goes out of town to a function they go en masse. I really think that Hayward "has its shit together." Again at this function, just like the Children's Hospital benefit, San Francisco attendance was nil.

Sorry to announce that the T.T. Express will be closed temporarily while the matter of the license is rectified and they do some remodeling.

### SAN JOSE

February 18 the T.D.'s Family will present a show for Casa at Aunt Helen's Galley at 8:00pm, with a \$2.00 door charge. Special guests will include Carla LaMar.

Saturday the 24th, Queen Mother VI Jeanea will hold her Investiture at the MCC Hall, 160 N. 3rd, at 7:30pm. Cost is \$6.

Sunday the 25th, The Desperados will have its Mardi Gras Party (cost \$2) and there are lots of prizes to go around. The same day, the WE Junction will feature a \$1.98 beauty contest at 6:00pm with a trophy and cash prizes.

Coming up in March will be the Lambda 3rd Anniversary Show & Awards. The 3rd of March will be the Peninsula Coronation, with the theme "The Movies and The Stars." Cost is \$10 and the doors open at 6:30. There will be a \$50 prize for best Movie Star Look-Alike and \$100 prize for best court presentation. Sunday the 4th will be the Grand Opening of the Savoy, with champagne buffet from 4 till 6.

Congratulations are in order for Johnie Staggs, elected chairperson of Lambda this past week. Vice-Chair went to Kent Olson; Treasurer, Pat McAtee; and Secretary, Dan Relic. Sincere thanks to past Chairperson Steve Century for all the hard work over the last year. He did an excellent job.

Look for the Grand Opening of yet another new bar in San Jose — The Boot Rack at 415 Stockton Avenue. This will be a beer and wine establishment catering to hot men.

The Susan B. Anthony

Democratic Club will hold its February meeting at the home of Pat McAtee, 505 Minnesota, San Jose, on the 27th at 7:00pm. Guest speaker will be San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt.

### PALO ALTO

Calvary MCC announces a new meeting place at the home of Bill S. and Tim B., 459 Oregon Avenue, Palo Alto. Services are held on Sundays at 11:00am and again at 5:00pm.

### MODESTO

The Stanislaus County Mr. Macho Contest will be held at the American Legion Hall; doors open at 8:00pm. The winner of the Mr. Macho Contest will appear in the Central California Finals on August 25 and will receive a \$50 cash prize. Winner of the Finals in August will receive a \$250 cash prize.

## M.C.C. San Jose Sets Date For Extravaganza On Skates

M.C.C. San Jose has announced that March 19 will be the date for their "Extravaganza on Skates" to be held at Skateworld, 3667 Stevens Creek Blvd., Santa Clara, from 7:30 till 10:00pm. All monies will go towards the M.C.C. San Jose Building Fund.

There will be MC's and Judges such as Tenderloin Tessie, Dowager Empress Char, Ron Ross (AKA Emma Mae Von Gay), a bevy of other beautiful creatures, and Billy De Frank (but don't let that keep you away). Prizes will be awarded for such categories as Best Drag on Wheels, Best Punk on Wheels, Best Cowboy and Cowgirl on Wheels, among other cute titles, and for the best 5 falls of the evening. There are lots of prizes to go around, and this will be an evening that you will not forget. Cost is just \$2, less than three packs of cancer sticks. Tickets are available at many locations in San Francisco and at your favorite bars in Oakland, Hayward, The Peninsula, and San Jose. For further information, call Lee Stanford at 287-3125 or MCC San Jose at 294-2310.

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# MEXICO: Gay Politics on the Rise

writer meets a south-of-the-border activist

By David Noel Hinojosa

(Hinojosa interviewed Juan Jacobo Hernandez, 37, on his recent visit to San Francisco. Hernandez is a Mexico City University professor who is one of the prime movers in the beginnings of Gay Liberation in Mexico.)

Out of Mexico City's 14 million citizens, there are only about 10,000 highly visible Gays because of the long and oppressive "macho" mentality that has restrained their activities. Many of these are students or from the lower class. Hernandez emphasizes that the more wealthy upper class Gays are, unfortunately, not visible in the rights movement and their needed financial backing is lacking.

Hernandez reveals that a series of homosexual murders,

rapes, assaults and police raids on Gay groups in the summer of 1978 gave rise to a new activism. In September, '78, a group of Gay people brazenly protested at police headquarters. Later, the successful action culminated in the formation of the "Homosexual Front for Revolutionary Action," called FHAR.

FHAR now has grown to 300 members with 25 "core" leaders. Hernandez says that they have united on the Gay rights issue, although the politics of those involved varies. The demand is for a cessation of police repression, the right of access to the media, and the right of all Gays to legal and medical assistance. The activist believes, "It will be a long hard struggle but it is the only way."

A Gay Liberation Front

ued until May, 1978, when Hernandez and others began speaking out about their rights after the oppression became unbearable to many. Small victories were first noted: the publication of letters in the

was on July 26, 1978, when hundreds of Gays marched as part of the 10th Anniversary march and demonstration, commemorating the 1968 student demonstrations when police killed many students.

Hernandez states that the 1978 Gay presence in the march startled many who had never seen that many Gay people together before. He said, "The political Right and Left did not know what to do with us. All of a sudden, we were in their midst and we were a new group to be contended with."

There is not a Castro or Polk "Gay" area in Mexico City, so it was not until the July, 1978, demonstration that so many Gays were visible as a significant part of society. The excitement by activists after this successful event has resulted in FHAR's continuing growth. In late 1978 FHAR had two of its own demonstrations to bring further attention to its rights demands. The group is also publishing materials to explain what its legal rights should be and to illustrate that homosexuals are not a threat to the family or society. FHAR is now planning to start an international switchboard.

Hernandez talked with a number of Gay activists in the Bay Area and spoke with Gay Rap, the Gay Alliance of Latin Americans (GALA), and various Gay religious groups.

What motivates Hernandez and his associates to continue against great odds in Mexico City? He replies, "A victory for one of us is a victory for all of us. A defeat for one of us is, likewise, a defeat for all of us — everywhere."

(Readers may write to Juan Jacobo Hernandez at FHAR, Apartado Postal 13-320, Mexico, 13, DF, Mexico.)



Mexico's equivalent to The National Enquirer headlines "RISE OF THE LAVENDERS" in its stereotyping of Gay people. It adds, "They inject silicone to attract dirty old men."

(GLF) was the first activism in Mexico City. It was formed in 1971 with 10 raps groups, similar to the early Mattachine groups in the United States in the late 1950's.

GLF disbanded in 1973, and fragmented Gay groups contin-

public press and a magazine protesting homophobic comments by an alleged homosexual actor, Roberto Cobo, and against a play by a Uruguayan theater group that stereotyped Gay people.

The most dramatic action

## VD Pill Now Available

### ATLANTA

Dr. Paul Weisner, director of the Venereal Disease Control Center here, has announced that a new pill is now available that will cure gonorrhea. The pill is tetracycline and is taken four times a day for five days. It is as effective as a single penicillin shot.

Weisner explains that the current use of direct penicillin shots is still common but that pills are now an alternative.

Two other drugs (ampicillin and amoxicillin) are also available in pill form. To be effective seven pills must be taken in a single half-hour visit.

## 'Tomboys' & 'Sissies' Study Revealed

### CHICAGO

With a limited sampling of only 18 males and 4 females, two respected researchers have reached broad conclusions about children that manifest characteristics and interests that are considered "sissy" or "tomboy."

Dr. John Money (Johns Hopkins University) and Dr. Richard Green (State University of New York) conclude that in the four females that they studied it was learned that those who dress in the stereotypical boys' clothes, played with what is perceived as boys' toys and "like the rough and tumble of boys' sports" are more likely to become Lesbian. Green also observed that the "tomboy" girls did not wear cosmetics or "feminine attire" in adolescence.

Boys who are considered "sissy" because they cross-

dress and play with dolls "do not consistently become homosexual" according to Green. However, he concluded, some of the "sissy" boys were obviously predisposed to becoming Gay.

The conclusions of the two researchers are in the January issue of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

## Hungarian Gypsies Return for 3 Dates

Local audiences will once again be treated to the youthful exuberance of Rajko Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra and Dancers, as they begin their fourth exciting tour of the Western Hemisphere. They will perform at the Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco Wednesday, February 21, at 8:00pm; at Flint Center in Cupertino February 22 at 8:00pm; and at the Paramount Theater in Oakland February 23 at 8:30pm.

In Hungarian, Rajko means "Gypsy Youth," and indeed, the group members' average age is nineteen. But in any language, an evening of entertainment by this fresh and talented ensemble of young Gypsy

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## ENTERTAINMENT

ROCK . OPERA . INTERVIEWS . BOOKS . MUSIC . THE ARTS . STAGE . SCREEN . SHOWS . I

# Music Man, Jon Sims and "76 Gay Trombones"

Jon Sims is an ambitious man, both for himself and for the Gay community.

Sims was born on a farm in Smith Center, Kansas, in 1947. Music was his great interest; he took up the piano at age ten. Later the french horn. He was his high school's drum major as well as head drum major at Wichita State University. While at Wichita and Fort Hope State, he majored in piano, horn, and composition. He graduated in 1969. In 1972 he received an MA in french horn and a teaching certificate from the University of Indiana. He moved to Chicago for his first high school teaching assignment, vocal and instrumental music. While there, he joined the Civic orchestra of Chicago (a training orchestra under the auspices of the Chicago Symphony).

Of that experience he recalls, "I finally had to admit to myself that I didn't like to be around the musicians I was rehearsing and performing with. . . . I was Gay and I couldn't be myself as a human being. I felt totally out of place. My experience in many, many orchestras tells me that there isn't a more macho environment anywhere than the brass section of an orchestra."

He continues, "I can see now I wasn't making the kind of music I was capable of because of the social, personal barriers I had to deal with just being a person, a Gay person."

Sims arrived in San Francisco in 1974 and began teaching in Daly City. Not before he had concluded further study in the french horn with Joseph Singer who had just retired after 35 years with the New York Philharmonic. He also attended the Dal Croze School of Music in New York City where he studied a revolutionary system called Eurhythmics (body movements as applied to music). Daly City ended his desire to teach in the public schools.

At this point the young musician reassessed his life. He concluded he wanted "to work with people rather than the music — and the music comes." And those people were Gay people. "We have been struggling for survival up til now. Now we can do more than just survive. We can participate freely in artistic

expression, we can share with each other philanthropically and through performance of the arts. We have more to live for now than survival."

And an idea began to take shape — Gay musical groups. "I wanted to serve these people because they were my friends and I love them."

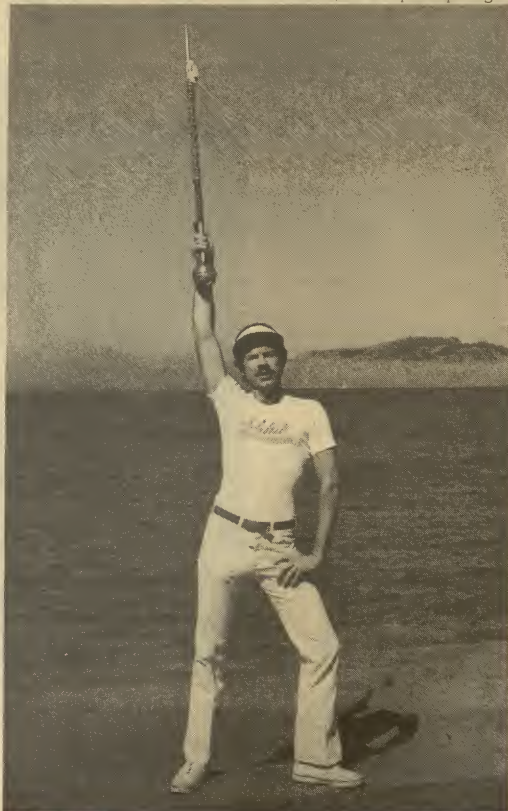
In the spring of 1978 Sims formed a Gay Marching Band and Twirling Corps. The group's first appearance was the Gay Freedom Day Parade in June 1978. The Band was the parade's big hit. From there, they appeared at the Castro Street Fair, Family Day Kite Festival, the city's Columbus Day Parade (for which they were awarded First Prize). The group, which now numbers 80 musicians, 7 twirlers and 1 solo twirler, performed at various NO ON 6

benefits, the Beaux Arts Ball and finished off 1978 with a Winter Concert at Everett Middle School.

Joining the Band for the Winter Concert was the Men's Chorus (140 musicians) formed in October and the Women's Chorus (35 musicians) formed in November 1978. Richard Kramer was named conductor of the Men's Chorus and Sonda C. Zambino conductor of the Women's.

A Gay orchestra with 30 musicians got underway in December with Mike Hollywood conducting. In addition, small groups have spun off from the band: a Ragtime Ensemble, a Jazz Band, a German Band.

The Band, over the next few months, will be participating in



Jon Sims, founder and conductor of the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps.

## Up, Coming & Choice

By Adam Block

**DANCE TO ROCK 'N' NEW WAVE:** The Stud's Monday night playlist gets better all the time and the crowds are making this one of the hottest nights at any bar in the city. From the Stones to Talking Heads, Joplin to the Clash, Larry spins them with a vengeance, and folks marvel; it's like the good ole days. Local new wave celebs rock out with the non-clone population. Women welcome. (Every Mon., 8pm-2am, 12th & Folsom, No Cover)

**FAYE CAROL:** After building a strong following for her mighty belting and crooning sets, Ms. Carol is taking to North Beach's funky but chic cabaret. Watch the Colt Tower commence to bump and grind. (Savoy Tivoli — Feb. 15 — Thurs-Sat 9:30-1:30, Sun 2:30-6:30 — \$3)

**NEXT, NO SISTERS, LAZAR:** Powerhouse drummer Brittlely Black's band headline, but the mighty rising No Sisters combo may be a hard act to follow. (Mabuhay Gardens — Feb. 15 — 11pm — \$3.50)

**BILLY C. FARLOWE:** The rockabilly Buddy Holly lover used to pump 'em out for the Lost Planet Airmen. On his own he smokes hard. (Last Day Saloon — Feb. 16 — 8:30 & 11pm — \$3.50)

**AVENGERS, COUNT FIVE:** The Avengers have been shifting since the departure of their great lead guitarist, and some see a renaissance in the aftermath. Penelope is still arrestingly front and center. I haven't heard from Count Five since the seminal garage-band artifact 'Psychotic Reaction.' A deep-time peek at the vicissitudes of music on the edges. (Mabuhay — Feb. 16 — 11pm — \$3.50)

**EMMYLOU HARRIS, JESSE BARISH:** The wondrous L.A. country waif returns. Her fans are legion, so buy early. Dunno 'bout the opener. (Old Waldorf — Feb. 16 — 8 & 11pm — \$7.50 adv., \$8.50 door)

**NAOMI RUTH EISENBERG, STU BLANC, GYPSY DREAM, JIM MORRISON FILM:** The former Hot Lick, who wrote the fabulous tune "Success," has an all new show. Maybe even some of those Gay cowgirl laments. (Mabuhay — Feb. 17 — 11pm — \$4)

**DYAN DIAMOND:** The teenage radio star is back in the East Bay polishing her attack in a rowdy club. I wanna see her face off against Tanya Tucker. (Keystone Berkeley — Feb. 17 — 8:30 & 11pm — \$4)

**GRATEFUL DEAD:** A friend was surprised to become a "true believer" on New Year's Eve. It still happens. Last of the great psychedelic bands, and one of the world's 12 wonders. Not available on disc. (Oakland Coliseum — Feb. 17 — 8pm — \$7.50 adv., \$8.50 door)

**PAT METHENY GROUP:** The young Turk of jazz guitar returns. My rock fan buddy claims he can't play chords. Audiences run a touch rapt to worshipful, but then the kid is a quiet trail blazer. (Great American Music Hall — Feb. 21 — 8:30 & 11pm — \$6.50)

**JOE ELY:** Last year's most exciting country singer-songwriter finally arrives in the Bay Area, and I have the highest hopes for this gig. (Old Waldorf — Feb. 22 — 8 & 11pm — \$4.50 adv., \$5.50 door)

**JAN & DEAN:** The original surf rock duo of "Surf City" and "Dead Man's Curve" fame return to the stage in one of their first appearances since Jan's near-fatal auto wreck in '66. Once a great team and by some reports, still capable. I'm rooting for them. (Keystone Berkeley — Feb. 28 — 8:30 & 11pm — \$5)

**GARY BURDON QUARTET:** A masterful vibraphonist who has done remarkably rich and sensuous work of late on ECM Records. Coming on the heels of Carla Bley's marvelous shows, her sometime collaborator and interpreter arrives timely and welcome. (Great American Music Hall — Feb. 25 — 8:30 & 11pm)

**JOHN FAHEY, AMOS GARRETT & GEOFF MULDAUR:** Fahey's eccentric depressive bottleneck blues suites in the late 60's launched his own label, Takoma, and opened the doors for Leo Kottke. Appearances are rare enough to merit special note. Against his intensely sensuous playing, look to Garrett and Muldaur for the good times. (Great American Music Hall — Feb. 28 — 8:30 & 11:30pm — \$6)

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the Cable Car Awards, Chinese New Year and St. Patrick's Day Parade, and a Spring Concert is in preparation. Sims would like his musicians to represent the Gay community in all the major city parades. What started as an amusing entry in the 1978 Gay Freedom Day Parade has mushroomed into a multi-faceted music organization. Says Sims, "I envision the whole thing as providing a music resource (one that is valid and of high quality) by and for the Gay community — but not limited to just the Gay community."

Most of Sims' musicians are ones who haven't played or sung for a while. "They are, for the most part, not professional symphony players who have the technique to produce sounds, demanded by a conductor, with the consistency of a never-failing machine. Most quit music after high school or college because of either lack of opportunities (no civic groups) or because other parts of their personal and professional lives took priority."

Sims is serious in his concern for his Gay brothers and sisters. He sees participation in these music groups as one more opportunity for Gay people to get together which he doesn't find in the bars, baths, and fuckatoriums. He also sees it as an opportunity for Lesbians to get out of their shell. The musicians range in age from 18 to 53. Twenty to 25% have been teachers, some ten were former music teachers. A player with one year's training will be seated next to someone with twenty years of playing experience. He says, "I am continually surprised at the quality we get with the vast diversity of talent at our disposal."

Music Management is Sims overall label for himself. He has studied Music Law, Music Administration, and has had experience in Public Relations. He has been spending up to 14 hours, 7 days per week, on his brainchild. To stay afloat he's been doing some private teaching and living off his teacher's retirement funds, and he's running out of money. And money is the Band's biggest problem to date. One of his side projects is to assemble a board of directors from the community and set up some fund-raising projects. "To date, everyone wants us to help some cause — play at some benefit, some gala. And the time has come for someone to give us a hand."

On the one hand says Sims, "I have no ten-year plan. I am happy with what I am doing now. I am 100% productive. I don't know where it will all lead." On the other Sims talks about creating the need for drama and dance that will serve the Gay community. "Someday a dance concert, a full stage production, incorporating music, dance, and drama." He talks of possibly going to parades outside the city, of seeing similar organizations springing up across the country. He can foresee in three or four years taking a combined group from all the



Jon Sims rehearses his band and chorus for the Cable Car Awards & Show. (Photo by Guy Cory)

Gay communities in the nation to assemble at Rockefeller Center or the Kennedy Center in Washington. Already plans are afoot to set up a band in New York. One chorus member is returning to Kansas and will set up a group in Topeka/Kansas City. Another is going to try to get something started in Austin, Texas.

Jon Sims sees it all as Gay people doing something for themselves and for each other and eventually for the community at large. A lot has happened in less than a year, and occasionally Sims feels the

depressing weight of ever more monumental problems. The very logistics of getting 80 Gays in one place at the same time would stagger lesser men. Sims brings to his self-found project Midwestern good sense and gut. He is mild-mannered and level-headed. A man with solid accomplishments, liking what he is doing, and plans that inch by inch get realized, is what we need more of in the Gay community. Would that ambition like John Sims' were as infectious as so many of the other "statistics" that plague and presently characterize the Gay community.

Paul-Francis Hartmann



Robby Benson — the romantic lead in ICE CASTLES, Columbia Pictures' latest snow job.

## Film: Ice Castles

You can just see the movie-makers huddled in a conference room thinking up this

one. "Hey, Joe, I've got a great idea for a plotline. We'll use basic formula 'A' (boy gets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back), but we'll spruce it up a little so no one will recognize it."



"How ya gonna do that, Frank?"

"Well, we'll make the girl become a star . . . a star ice skater! . . . and after she has a taste of the glamor that goes with stardom, she'll dump the poor schmuck back home in Iowa. Then she'll have an accident, go blind, and return home. The kid will take her back because he has nothing better to do with his time and even though he's angry with her, he's still stuck on her."

"That's good so far — go on."

"The kid gets this crazy idea that she can still be an ice skating champ even though she can't see. And sure enough, she returns to win again!"

And so, my friends, ICE CASTLES was born. For the kid they got Robby Benson; for the girl a new youngster named Lynn-Holly Johnson. (You know she has to be new with that hyphenated name.) Then for acting they got Colleen Dewhurst. She walks through the part of the has-been champ who encourages Lynn-Holly to try to be a champ herself. Jennifer Warren and David Huffman were brought in for glamor (Farrah Fawcett and Lee were busy) and together the whole bunch gets a little shuteye. Naturally, we have a few slow motion sequences complete with voice over song ("Harry, we need some schmaltz — let's get Marvin Hamlisch to write some

songs!").

The whole affair was directed by Donald Wrye, whose plodding style is reminiscent of recovery room coma.

"Oh, but the photography was so pretty," sighed one woman who sat behind me (snoring).

True, lots of nice snow shots are there. But if I wanted pictures of snow I can buy some postcards of Aspen. Two hours of snow shots do not a good movie make.

Michael Lasky

## New Radio Show

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1:00 to 2:00pm on KEST (1450 AM) Ken Maley will be interviewing Supervisor Harry Britt. The show's format will be interview followed by telephone participation. It will be a live show.

The new weekly series will feature personalities and issues of concern to both the Gay and the straight audience.

The Feb. 28 segment will be with Police Chief Charles Gain.

Maley, a resident of San Francisco for 15 years, is a freelance public relations and media consultant — whose specialty has been the S.F. Gay movement — representing Gay clients and the Gay movement to the straight media.

## Film: Get Out Your Handkerchiefs

The French do not as a rule export many good comedies. The recent **DEAR INSPECTOR** was an exception and so is this diverting picture by Bertrand Blier, director of the previous **GOING PLACES**.

The film stars the same actors featured in **GOING PLACES**, but the plotline here is much more accessible if as controversial. Gerard Depardieu cannot get his wife (Carole Laure) to come out of her depression. She walks around like a zombie. She says she's all right, but there is no spirit or life to her. Desperate for the woman he loves, he offers to cuckold himself with another man he finds for her. The innocent bystander happens to be eating lunch in the same restaurant. But pretty soon even he (played by Patrick Dewaere) is head over heels in love with the woman. Still, she is withdrawn — enjoying knitting grey sweaters and doing housework. Then she meets up with a precocious, high IQed, 13 year old boy, with whom she falls in love.

Blier's comment is at once sexist to both men and women. But the set up is so charmingly presented we cannot help but laugh. We may disagree with the point of view that men are baboons and women are petulant children who know no

better. Or we may not see any point at all which is probably closer to the truth that men don't understand women and women don't understand men. That men are happiest with men and women with women because of their opposite sex befuddlement.

Surely this is well known but seldom expressed as clearly as in this film. The confusion that opposite sexes have with each other sustains the energy of the film as does the marvelous

understated acting. The boy played by "Riton" is particularly beguiling, but how the hell this puny runt can charm the pants off this woman is amazing. Blier makes it seem plausible which is all the more upsetting.

**GET OUT YOUR HANDKERCHIEFS** won the National Society of Film Critics award for best picture of the year. That seems to be more of a puzzle than the thesis of the picture itself. It's an entertaining movie with something to

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say and a controversy to arouse. It's a breezy 110 minutes, but no best picture masterpiece.

Seeing a grown woman making it with a 13 year old boy is sure to garner attention . . . but awards? See it and decide for yourself. (At the Clay.)

Michael Lasky

## Stage:

DEBORAH KERR SAGS IN

### The Last of Mrs. Cheyney

MRS. CHEYNEY is a period piece. It's dull. Period. Frederick Lonsdale's play was first produced in London in 1925 starring Gladys Cooper and later in New York with Ina Claire. Now it has been resurrected for Deborah Kerr's eleven-city tour of America.

MRS. CHEYNEY is an extremely light comedy about a supposed Australian widow who comes to England and ever-so-sweetly wins the hearts of a well-to-do clique with the intent of robbing their jewelry. The first act is concerned with setting up the robbery; the second with the robbery itself and the consequences that follow.

The problem is that everyone involved in the incident is so damned bloody proper, and concerned only with their social image, that the whole play sags in scene after scene of posing, posturing and gentle rufflings of feathers. By the finale, nothing has been taken and the would-be thief (Mrs. Cheyney/Kerr) winds up engaged to Lord Arthur Dilling (Monte Markham), the man who



Monte Markham and aging film star Deborah Kerr bring back *THE LAST OF MRS. CHEYNEY* to the Curran. Problem is they can't keep it alive. . .

catches her in the act of the theft.

Ms. Kerr looks lovely but doesn't do much. Her most daring outburst consists of tossing a glass of champagne into Markham's face when he suggests he would overlook the robbery attempt if she'd go to bed with him. I don't know why she keeps refusing. It's clear from the moment they meet that they're hot for each other! (This is especially understandable on Kerr's part since Monte Markham is one handsome, trim and sexually sophisticated hunk.) Why Ms. Kerr chose MRS. CHEYNEY as a touring vehicle escapes me, except that the part doesn't seem to require much energy output.

The play does pick up in the last scene, but this is due mainly to some fine supporting performances by Joyce Worsley, Stephen D. Newman and Marti Stevens who worry and bitch about the scandal following the attempted robbery.

Unless you're a diehard Deborah Kerr fan, or want to stare at Monte Markham's clean-cut, debonnaire figure, this play can be easily passed over in favor of a good late night movie.

Mark Topkin

### Actors' Ark Opens at USF

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD will be presented by Actors' Ark Theatre at Campion Hall on the University of San Francisco campus — in its intimate Gill Theatre (Fulton and Cole). Performances are February 21 to March 3, running Thursday-Saturday evenings at 8:30. Tickets at the door and at all major agencies. For information, call 666-6133.

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD is the play which made Tom Stoppard one of the leading English contemporary writers. It won the Tony Award and the Critics' Circle prize the year of its Broadway debut. The play is the perfect modern comedy,

## Theatre Rhinoceros Presents "The West Street Gang"

Theatre Rhinoceros (local Gay theater group) presents the West Coast premiere of Doric Wilson's *THE WEST STREET GANG*, a comedy about the clientele of a New York City Gay bar. These men are brought together by the issue of how to protect themselves from harassment on the streets. *THE WEST STREET GANG* is not a heavy play; it's fast, funny, and upbeat. Leave the suffering at home. As Director Allan Estes puts it, "THE WEST STREET GANG is designed to make the audience feel good."

For reservations and information call 621-3911.

## Stage:

### ACT's 5TH OF JULY

MORE CHERRY BOMB THAN CHERRY ORCHARD

The opening night audience enjoyed Langston Wilson's new play *5TH OF JULY* — akin to the pleasure of watching oneself in a fun-house mirror. Yet for all the laughs, the play has problems.

It is 1977, and Wilson takes us to a rural Missouri reunion of a quartet of Berkeley hippies, peaceniks, and dopers who have burned their candles at both ends for the past 14 years. The possibilities are attractive . . . and possibly deceptive, for as soon as one starts romanticizing the turbulent 60's, one drifts into the shallows of melodrama and soap opera. Once aground, extrication is not easy. If fluffy comedy is the author's intention, there's no problem. But if drama (i.e.

serious statement, theme, character development) is what the author is after, then there's trouble in River City.

The plot: Will the legless Vietnam veteran sell the family's country place or won't he? Will his fried-brain buddies buy it? And has he the courage to teach school, now ill-equipped with his wooden legs and his handsome doting lover, Jed (played stoically by handsome, handsome Peter Davies)?

By the time the play gets to who did what to whom, with whom, and for whom back in those revolutionary Berkeley pads — the evening is too far along for anyone to much care. Besides, the comedy has long



Comedy and handsome Gay lovers (Mark Murphy held by Peter Davies) help out ACT's *5TH OF JULY*, which opened the West Coast premiere at the Geary Theater. Neither laughs nor beauty were enough to carry the evening.

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since stolen the thunder, and the audience's interest. Hence climax, denouement, and resolution fall flat on their ass as does the equally handsome hero, Kenneth Talley (played with suitable Gay self-mockery and paraplegic bitterness by handsome Mark Murphey). To playwright Wilson, the modern woman does and says a lot of tucking. And yet the play's most exciting personage is Gwen Landis — the burned out (not really though) rich kid turned richer recording star and industrialist — played exuberantly and for all she can get, away with by Barbara Dirickson.

Set designer Richard Seger has created a visually stunning single set of the solid but seedy Victorian house and veranda. How it's used (or not used) is a flaw in the production.

In the comedic realm, playwright Wilson (also known for his *HOT L BALTIMORE*) is in command, and he and the cast let their tongues whip the air with electricity. When he gets serious (psychological, sociological, or philosophic) his step, like his disabled veteran's, falters. His characters also grow unsure of themselves, and if at the moment have nothing to say, they don't seem to know what to do with themselves, or where to go, or why they're going where they're going.

I suspect the 5TH OF JULY was out to say something important — so important, so big — that it never said it. The audience might have thought they were hearing it, or the program notes said it, but the play (as executed — not as conceived) never made it. And hanging the big "revelation" scenes on tired theatrical tricks (knocking over a cripple, a last-minute heart attack, exposing the real father) says something less about Wilson's mastery of his craft.

The 5TH was a sparkler . . . not the Roman candle intended.

Paul-Francis Hartmann

### Stage: Excellent One-Acts at the Showcase

This was my first visit to the One Act Theatre Company of San Francisco, and I was impressed with their thorough professionalism. Their current bill (through March 4) is titled "Generations" and consists of three plays about family relationships and rites of passage.

The first offering was *THIS IS THE RILL SPEAKING* by Lanford Wilson. The play, like many of Wilson's pieces, is a slice of Americana. In this case, Wilson's pen etches a portrait of one dry July Saturday in a small mountain town of Missouri. The time is 1953, but, I suspect, things haven't changed much since then.

The focus is on one family and some of its neighbors. There are the pubescent boys

who have discovered masturbation, the teenage girls steeped in romantic fantasy and fighting (and sometimes giving in to) their intensifying sexual desires. The youths contrast with the old: the farmers who babble on, half listening to each other, about the wheat crop, and the farmers' wives who sit on their porches and gossip. The writing is almost poetic, and though there's really no plot to develop, by the end of the play our picture of this town is real and complete.

Tennessee Williams' *THE UNSATISFACTORY SUPPER* is the least satisfactory of the three plays. More a sketch than a play, there's not enough substance here as we witness the last day of Aunt Rose, 85, delicate, fluttering, an unwanted burden to an endless series of nieces and nephews who no

one knows what to do with. I would have liked to know more about her than just seeing her suffer the realization of her uselessness at the hands of Williams' outrageous Baby Doll and her husband Archie Lee.

The third play, *SYLVESTER THE CAT vs. GALLOPING BILLY BRONCO*, was the best of the evening. On a wooded mountain-top overlooking the Pacific Ocean, we meet Bill Rose, old, dying of cancer, who has come there to put a bullet through his head. He is stumbled upon by Danny Sylvester Schwartz, a bumbling Boy Scout out on a solo hike. Bill — son of Galloping Billy Bronco, former western movie hero — who isn't strong enough, despite his facade of a two-fisted drinking codger, to pull the trigger and Danny, a momma's boy who's scared of his own shadow, get to know



Kate Bannon, Yvonne O'Reilly and James Allen in Tennessee Williams' *THE UNSATISFACTORY SUPPER* from the One-Act Theatre Company's latest offerings.

each other quickly. By the play's end Danny has become more of a man and Bill has found peace and rest. The play, by Bay Area playwright Michael Lynch, is enhanced by superb performances by Lew Levinson as Bill and Dane Ince

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(reminiscent of a male Sandy Dennis) as Danny.

Each production is well directed and beautifully acted, adding up to a satisfying evening of theater. The One-Act company presents several programs over the season at The Showcase Theatre, 430 Mason (at Geary). For information, call 421-6162.

Mark Topkin

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## Tales of Tessi Tura

### The Diva of the "D" Train

by George Heymont

#### PART II

(Continued from last issue.)

I mentioned to Faye that in a recent interview Shirley Verrett said there is still a big problem with racism in opera, but that Verrett felt she had been spared much of the pain. Faye has had a few more problems. The irony in her case is that as an American-trained and educated singer, she gets more engagements in Europe than she does in her own country. I asked her if she thought racism was a factor in her not getting bookings in the American regional houses.

"Tell me!" she smirked. "They don't exactly jump for

waited. And waited. And waited. Finally, my manager called Seattle and asked what was taking so long. She was told that Ross was going off to Europe to scout for some other talent to see what else was around and they asked if I could just hold tight for a few more weeks. My manager told them they had just lost a hot American singer." Fay bristles.

her greatest screen performances. Following this will be a half-hour interview with the Academy Award winning actress about her life, loves, and career. To close the program, the film *MARRIAGE, ITALIAN STYLE* will be unreeled in its entirety. The comedy also stars Marcello Mastroianni.

Tickets for the evening will be \$5 for balcony seats and \$15 for orchestra seats. The downstairs tickets are being sold as a benefit for UNICEF and are tax-deductible. As it happens, probably the best seats at the Warfield are located center balcony.

Tickets for "An Evening with Sophia Loren" are now on sale at the Warfield and Strand Theatres, Macy's, Emporium, and BASS outlets.

(Loren is scheduled to be in San Francisco promoting her biography, "Sophia — Living and Loving.")

## Stage: Ruth Hastings DYNAMIC AT THE GEARY

When Ruth Hastings, radiant in her tousled blonde hair, stepped on stage at the Geary on Sunday evening, February 4, the audience erupted. Two and a half hours later the applause continued, the audience on its feet. By then, Ms. Hastings with her Company, Barry Lloyd and Craig Jessup, had delivered three dozen songs — each carefully, intelligently and, I suspect, lovingly chosen — with the style and theatrical sensitivity of a major star.

From her opening "Welcome to the Theatre" from *APPLAUSE* to her closing second encore "Amazing Grace," Ms. Hastings gave each song its full due. Among the highlights were an exultant "Good News for the Lady" (Sager/Manchester), a throbbing "No Love, You're Not Alone" (Brel), the haunting "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" from *EVITA*, a sizzling "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" (Porter) — dedicated to Cyril Magnin — and a poignant "All By Myself" (Eric Carmen) which segued out of Lloyd's tender playing from the second movement of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Ruth teased the audience with a medley called "Sondheim's Women" giving us bits of eight Sondheim songs I wish she had done ALL of. Craig Jessup opened the second half of the evening with "Ah, Paree!" and "Broadway Baby" from *FOLLIES*. Odd songs for a man to be singing, but Jessup made it all clever fun.

Overall, Ruth Hastings has proved herself a major talent who has paid her dues in the cabarets of San Francisco and is now seasoned and ready to move on to bigger things.

Mark Topkin

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In a quiet moment, Faye launches into the "Ah! fors' e lui" from the first act of Verdi's *LA TRAVIATA*.

joy to see me playing Lucia. Violetta and all those gals. Also, many of the regional houses can't pay that well. I do a lot of symphony and concert work. I enjoy those dates. I do much more opera in Europe. This year I'm doing a production with Ponnelle. It's not an opening cast, but it's a chance to work with him. That's a valuable opportunity. I hope it leads to some good things."

But she has been burned on a few occasions. "When I made my debut with the Fort Worth Opera, I showed up, and it was obvious they just didn't want me there. I didn't care. I got out on that stage and sang up a storm. Brought the house right down! After that, of course, they said, 'Whatever you want to sing next year, you just name it.' But I remember the conductor coming over to me after that first performance and saying, 'I'm glad you had a big success tonight because we were all a little scared.'"

Faye is still smarting from her treatment in dealing with the Seattle Opera. "That Glynn Ross is so cheap," she sighs. She then adds, "You can go ahead and print this because I don't care if I never sing with that company. I was supposed to do the *LUCIA* which opens their '79 season. Terms had been met and contracts were drawn up. I signed my contract and sent it in. Ross came to one of my performances and was polite and complimentary backstage, but a little distant. I dunno, maybe he thought he was getting Gail Robinson, instead. So I waited for the contract to come back signed. And

The restaurant was starting to close and Faye was anxious to get home to the Bronx. She had planned a housewarming for her new apartment the following week. "Listen, that apartment ain't gonna be finished for five years, but we're having that party as soon as I get home." An old schoolmate asks her if she has big rooms in her new place. "Well," Faye grins, "I got a big bathroom!" Her friend laughs and remarks, "Oh, it's gonna be one of THOSE parties, huh?" Faye's fingers snap in the air as she rocks back and forth in her seat. "Oh, we're just gonna party all week long, kid!!!!"

Before we parted, I asked Faye if she had any plans or hopes to sing in San Francisco in the near future. She dropped a broad stage wink and laughed. "Not as long as that old coot is still in charge up there!" Then she tossed the last crumb of apple pie into her mouth and headed for the door.

## An Evening Honoring Sophia Loren — In Person

Mamma Mia, Sophia Loren is coming to San Francisco! In what will be the fifth in the series of in-person appearances Loren will make a grand red-carpet entrance to the Warfield Theatre on March 1 at 8:00pm. The program will feature a half-hour of clips from

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David McNaughton, one of San Francisco Ballet's most promising talents. He performed in ROMEO & JULIET as one of the Street Dancers.

## Dance:

### Die, Die, My Darling

PROKOFIEV'S CLASSIC REMAINS LOCAL TRIUMPH

San Francisco Ballet's lusty staging of ROMEO & JULIET returned to the Opera House last month for six whirlwind performances. My first exposure to ROMEO was with Kenneth MacMillan's brilliant staging, as performed by the Royal Ballet. But with each viewing, San Francisco's production continues to outdistance MacMillan's more formalized version.

First and foremost is the vitality of the dancers. Our company holds a firm grip on the youthful spirit of the lovers. Their exuberance is well supported by Michael Smuin's choreography. Smuin speaks from the gut. His balcony scene soars with the ecstasy of a fresh rush of blood to the groin. The love which possesses Romeo and Juliet is one which is all-consuming. It devours every nerve ending in their bodies.

There is a youthful brashness to this production which is well served by the company. The dance numbers for Verona's street people display a swaggering humor and bawdiness. Regardless of the warring factions of the Capulets and Montagues, the street elements of each tribe want some excitement and perhaps a good fight to pass the day. That they get more than they bargain for has now become legend.

The ribald and mocking humor of Mercutio is brought out in coy, lightning movements by Attila Ficzere, backed up by Tony Ness as a lean and playful Benvolio. As Juliet's Nurse, Tina Santos allows the

character an extra measure of earthiness.

Tomm Ruud and Susan Magno are comfortably ensconced in the lead roles. Each dancer breathes the character, sensitively outlining the emotional development of young love until it reaches its final tragedy. Whether together for brief moments of love, or alone in their love and surrounded by hatred, the two danced magnificently, bringing a sense of urgency and electricity to the stage.

Smuin's choreography allows his dancers to shine in even the smallest of roles. In their two minutes of dance, Victoria Gyorfi and the astounding David McNaughton wiped up the stage with a display of bravura comic technique as the Street Dancers. Gary Wahl and Paula Tracy lent strong support as the evil Tybalt and his Lady Capulet.

In all, the production remains a knockout: as fresh and explosive as the day it was launched. Prokofiev's electrifying music is so beautifully interwoven with the story that it moves the plot line along with rare precision and acceleration. The final effect is to leave the dancers and the audience in awe of what they have just experienced. ROMEO & JULIET is a triumphant piece of dance theatre under any circumstances. As performed by the San Francisco Ballet in Smuin's production, it becomes an event of compelling beauty.

George Heymont

## Faye Carol Now in North Beach

Popular singer Faye Carol and her trio (Larry Bradford/piano, Freddie Williams/bass,

Frank Samuels/drums) are now appearing at the Savoy Tivoli, 1434-38 Upper Grant Avenue. They will perform on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 9:30 to 1:30 and on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 7:00.

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## Books

### A Gay Murder Rattles West Point

by Frank Howell

**Dress Gray**  
by Lucian K. Truscott, IV  
Doubleday  
\$10.95-1979

The American failure in Viet Nam has caused all of us to re-examine the role of the military in our lives. Growing up in the 1940's and the 1950's, many of us simply didn't question the motives of the Army, Navy, and Marines. They were simply part of the American scene, like Superman and J. Edgar Hoover. But in recent years the seams in Old Glory have become unraveled. The armed forces are now clearly on the defensive.

The educational centerpiece of this mammoth system is West Point, which stands proudly on the banks of the Hudson River. Truscott has pierced the armor of this assemblyline of violence in "Dress Gray," his first novel. He hails from a long line of military brass, so we assume he knows the territory.

Homophobia and macho male achievement go hand-in-hand as Truscott demonstrates. This modern day Greek tragedy is set in the West Point

of 1967-68 and is ignited by the murder of a cadet named David Hand. His nude body is found in several feet of water where he has drowned. The autopsy report reveals Hand experienced anal intercourse just before his murder.

Alex Ryland, Superintendent of the Academy, is horrified and orders a complete cover-up. The post mortem examination is faked for the sake of public relations. The death is officially reported as an accidental drowning. General Charles Hedges, who commands all the cadets, also refuses to acknowledge the sexual aspect of Hand's death. Ry Slaughter, an upperclassman at West Point, becomes suspicious and personally investigates the incident on his own time. He is eventually assisted by Mr. Bassett, a military attorney. Slaughter is forced officially by Hedges to forget the case or face dismissal from the Academy.

The air becomes thick with intrigue and melodrama. Half way through the story we are given a major flashback to the previous year when Slaughter was a squad leader over David Hand.

"Dress Gray" seems over-written at times, and the plot is frequently brought to a halt while the author floods us with minute details about the life of a cadet. But Truscott certainly shows an awareness of the intense discipline and harassment that await any young male who wants to undergo the training of a future general. He sometimes fails to make clear the meaning of the numerous slang terms used by the cadets. But we find ourselves so caught up in the petty horrors of West Point life that we hardly notice.

The honor system of this unique institution is exposed as petty and ultimately degrading. One cadet is dismissed after only nineteen days because he supposedly lied about his sexual virginity during a bull session with other cadets. Regular Army life is no doubt a tea party in comparison to this.

The writing is vigorous and busy, and the plot is guaranteed to keep the reader attentive as the past of David Hand begins to unfold and threaten the image of West Point.

At the conclusion of this rousing saga, we begin to wish that Truscott had explored the tension between Gay feelings and the macho violence with a more intimate scalpel. He merely suggests where he should probe deeper. Some of the dialogue shows that homophobia looms large in the shadows. Slaughter remarks at one point about another cadet, "Van Ripper was a fag, too. He was killing the faggot in him. West Point does not allow for

the possibility that the enemy is you."

At another point, General Hedges is raving about threats to the Army pride when he is alarmed by student demonstrators and how they would react to the Hand murder.

*If this gets out, Slaughter, we're going to have all those faggot communist demonstrators out there we're going to have them thinking they've got a piece of the action up here at the academy. He (Hand) was one of theirs, mister. If this gets out, all over the world, they'll be watching us and they'll figure we just let commie faggots in our military academy along with everybody else, and then what good do you think our military commitments overseas will be?*

With generals like Hedges, we can readily appreciate what closet Army Gays are up against.

The conclusion of "Dress Gray" is not altogether satisfying, but we will still feel the time spent has been worth it.

At one point, Ry Slaughter breaks down and cries under intense duress, revealing that masculine toughness cannot last indefinitely, even at West Point. Hopefully, we can conclude that the recent Matlovich and Berg cases couldn't have smashed through the gray curtain at a better time.

A.B.A.R. classified ad pays off. Don't believe us. Call any one of the numbers and ask.

### Maupin Returns: "Matinee Idylls"

Armistead Maupin, popular Gay personality and writer, is beginning a new serial in the *San Francisco Examiner* in mid-March. The title: "Matinee Idylls."

The writer's earlier serial, "Tales of The City," appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. It received national attention because of its thousands of devoted readers. *TIME* reported the series success and its sudden and unexplained demise. "Tales" has since been sold to a Hollywood producer for a possible motion picture.

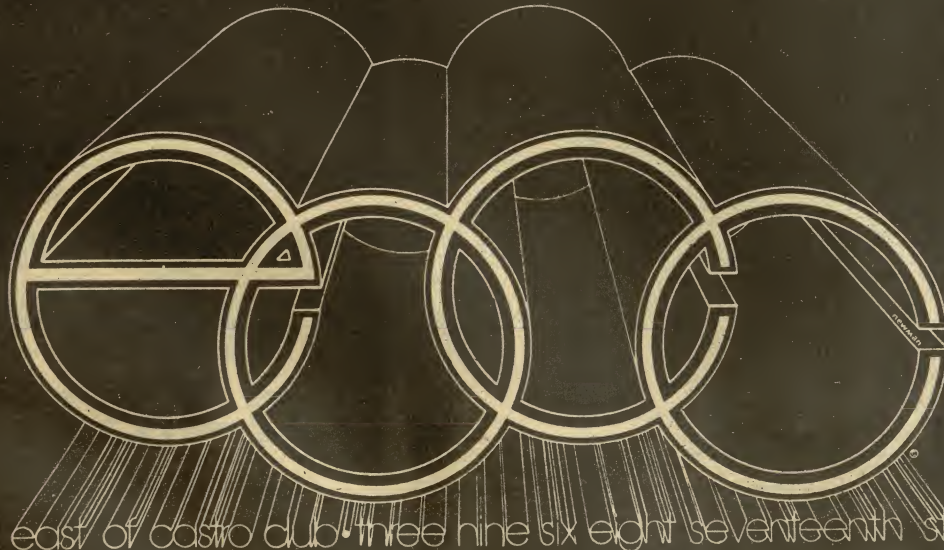
Maupin was the first serial author in a major newspaper to introduce Gay people and their inter-relations with each other and with non-Gays. In one segment, "Army" came out to his parents and the world. He has become a popular M.C. at Gay benefits and is a major writer for the local stage success "Beach Blanket Babylon." ... GM

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# BOB'S BAZAAR

X-RATED/BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT

## Mr. Marcus

### The Endangered Species

#### Southern Scandals

As of this writing, the two South of Market murders remain unsolved; several other of our brothers' murders also remain unsolved. Over the past weekend, small flyers were being distributed by a group called The Hall Monitor with warning hints to tell your roommate where you are going at night; that you will call in the morning; that if you play HARD, let someone know where you're going. Beware of strangers. Check with bartenders if you meet someone you're not sure of. You can never be too over-cautious.

And to those of you who were offended because you were handed a flyer, or couldn't be bothered to look at the photo of the missing men, and were outraged to be jolted out of your dream world of lust and gratification, remember one thing: It could happen to you, and I'm sure you would appreciate it if you were the victim and your friends were trying to find you and help you. Let's have a little more compassion and feeling of brotherhood among ourselves. This is San Francisco and this is 1979, so wake up and do something for your community instead of having your community do everything for you!

\* \* \*

A whole lot of what brotherhood and camaraderie are all about will be on display this weekend when the Barbary Coasters M/C will stage the 13th Annual Motorcycle Awards on Sunday night at California Hall. The coveted awards will be handed out to those bike clubs, club members and other bikers who have excelled in biking activities during 1978. Men from throughout the United States will be on hand to witness a spectacle that makes other award ceremonies look dismal. Pageantry, pomp and regalia will be on display Sunday night with entertainment and a full bar for your pleasure. At press time, the entire schedule for the weekend was as follows:

#### THURSDAY, FEB. 15

76'ers of LA Beer Bust at the Arena, 10 PM

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Cheaters M/C Beer Bust at Febe's, 8 to 11 PM

#### SATURDAY, FEB. 17

Recon M/C Winter Field Meet, 12 Noon, Sign up at The Trench

4 PM, Buddy Club of LA Cocktail Party at Febe's

8-11 PM, Constantines M/C Mix-N-Match Party at The Plunge

#### SUNDAY, FEB. 18

4 PM, Warlocks M/C Cocktail Party at The Plunge (invitation only)

6 PM, Barbary Coasters Bike Academy Awards, California Hall, Doors open at 5 PM. Tickets \$7.50 in Adv., \$10 at Door.

9 PM, GDI's of SF Winners' Circle Party at Febe's

10 PM, Champagne Reception for Oedipus REX & Show at the Arena

#### MONDAY, FEB. 19

Knights of Malta Beer Bust (time & place to be announced)

\* \* \*

#### KIDDIN' ON YOUR KEYS

I shouldn't tell you this but since my thing about the Castro Clones got so famous, you'll be delighted to learn about another new euphemism given to those dudes who fight the battle of the little brown bottles at the Trocadero Transfer on weekend nights only to be called the "Troc-La-Dites" when they invade the 6 AM bars on Sat & Sun mornings . . . Likewise, the disco queens who have the irresistible urge to swish those silver fans around at the I-Beam and the Troc are being called "Gay-sha Boys" — serious consideration is being given to ban those silver fans because one lady patron got a serious eye injury from an over-enthusiastic fanny, er, uh, fanner. I mean, if they can ban spike heels and bike club overlays, I think it's only fair that fans should be banned too . . . A million apologies to Bill T. of the Barbary Coasters M/C who was viciously, erroneously and tastelessly nominated and won a Spoon Award. The apology is also extended to the Barbary Coasters. Everyone involved understands why — and now, Bill, will you accept the spoon in good faith? I just KNOW

you'll want to nominate somebody deserving next year . . . They say you're not "IN" anymore South of Market unless you've had your liquor license suspended. Well, maybe down, but not out, SO-o-o, Fri and Sat nights at the Black & Blue you can get a little comedic culture by seeing David Wilson's WEST STREET GANG, a farcical leather play at 8 PM. Tickets are only \$4 and it runs from this weekend (Feb. 16) through March 9-10

\* \* \*

#### MULTIPLE SLUR-OSIS

I'd like to congratulate Randy Johnson for winning a Cable Car Award for being the Best Social Columnist in San Francisco. Randy now joins the list of all those other sterling journalists who have won it before, like Sweet Lips, La Kish, and others; you really deserve it, Randy, and I sincerely think you deserve every honor you have received . . . And speaking of journalists, I always give credit where credit is due and

so I'd like you all to know that in my last column, Bob Hendry of the Rip Off Rag is responsible for almost ALL those predictions you may have read . . . One of the main complaints among leathermen is that once you buy expensive leather, no one will take the trouble to repair it or alter it, so comes now the fantastic John Blythe Leatherworks to repair, alter, sew, fix up and make sure your leather always looks good. He makes custom leather wear too, so if you're in need, call John at 564-5999 . . . And now, if you're a leather wearer and want to have some fun on Monday nights, drop into the WILD GOOSE and play the Dating Game. You'll win dinner, theater tickets, and bath tickets if you're picked by the Man in the Box — every Monday, starting Feb. 19.

As the sun sinks slowly in the West, hark! I see a balloon floating over San Francisco — four queens are waving at me.

Who are they? The winners of the Hot Air Balloon Trip for 4 from Alfie's. Winners were announced last night. I don't think I won it.

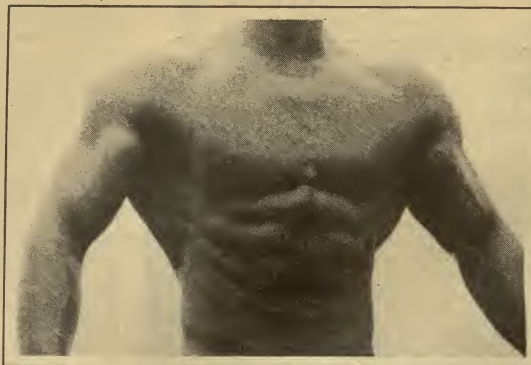
### Gay Runners Elect Officers

The Front Runners, a San Francisco based running club, has elected its first slate of officers. They are Gary May, President; Pat Stein, Vice President; Marvin Shipley, Secretary; and Frank Churchill, Treasurer.

Initially established as the Lavender U. Joggers, and loosely organized until recently, the group, now in its sixth year, has reorganized in order to better serve the expanding interests of Gay runners. The diverse membership includes Lesbians and Gay men from beginners to marathoners. A non-competitive group run is held every Sunday morning. For more information call (415) 641-0250.



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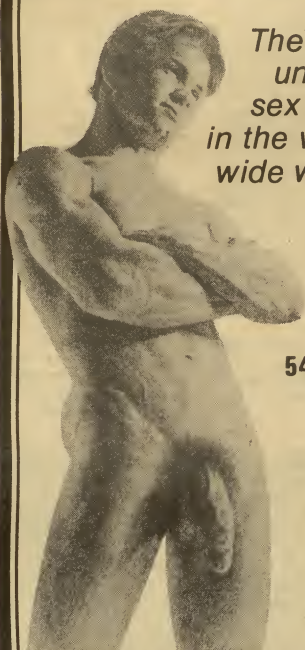
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**Porn Corner —**

**Forbidden Letters:  
A Serious Valentine**

by Karr

After trying to come to terms with *LE BEAU MEC*, one reviewer dismissed the entire film with the airy statement, "This is not cinema after all." A short-sighted pronouncement to be sure, and one certain to rankle Arthur Bressan, whose newest movie, *FORBIDDEN LETTERS*, is most definitely Cinema.

through their sex scenes. The hero's inability to relate to several casual tricks certainly does not afford steamy or arousing sex, but it does tell us, in sex-film language, exactly how he feels. No other filmmaker has realized as well as Bressan exactly what language he was speaking and then employed it. The most thrilling example of this narrative use of sex occurs

sexually; others are filmed with a perfectly deadening alienation.

The letters of the title refer to the missives Robert cannot write to his lover Richard, who must maintain a straight identity while he's in jail. The theme of the movie is the prison of the mind. One man, in jail, playing straight and another, out of jail, imprisoned in his mind.

The plot concerns the day when Richard will be returning home and Robert's confusion over the re-establishment of their relationship. Here the movie bogs down as we listen to endless voice-over narrations about Robert's emptiness.



The idea that a movie which exists basically for sexual arousal is not cinema, while one which exists for entertainment or capitalistic purposes is cinema is a faulty idea which functions on a double standard. Everything on film is Cinema, and we had all better be ready to expect expansion of the film medium from any place we can find it, whether it be Hollywood or the porno underground.

Bressan's film, now playing at the Nob Hill Cinema, is one such conscious attempt at expanding the vocabulary and sensibility of porno. Unfortunately, its total is not the sum of its parts, nor is it continually engrossing; but it is worthy of our viewing and discussion.

The strength of the film lies in Bressan's ability to chart the emotional disposition and growth of his characters

when the lead attends a porno film and is depressed by the grotesque frenzy on the screen. There is a shimmering dissolve, and we see the same footage as our hero would want to see it, as slow and sweet love-making. Not only are we shown an excellent three-way in this film-within-a-film, but we've been told a great deal about the lead character's needs. Since little of the sex in *FORBIDDEN LETTERS* is meant to be arousing, the movie really shouldn't be showing in a porno house, for that gives us misleading expectations. Most of the sex is used to explore the numb emotional state of the hero, in the same way that Antonioni used bleak landscapes in *RED DESERT* to show us Monica Vitti's emotional aridity. To expect nothing more than arousing sex will lead you to dislike this film, since only several scenes between the lovers are filmed

A pervasive hollowness lies at the core of the movie, attributable solely to its star. His blank looks and dead eyes, his lack of response leave a vacuum where emotion, hunger, love, and lust should lie. The final moment of the movie brings forth his only change, as he comforts Richard in the same way Richard used to comfort him. Robert realizes the released prisoner is now the hurt child and becomes the caring Father that Richard used to be to his Child. And although it is beautiful to see, after such lengths of stasis, it is hard to be awakened by such a fleeting moment, even though the whole movie has been building toward this one exchange.

There are enjoyable moments, though. The photography is often dazzling and shows the highest level of expertise. Bressan brings a Dachau look to the prison



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GLASSES"



sequences and makes the jail experience oppressive and frightening. A double masturbation in a ruined row of cells is heart-rending, as prisoners reach out to others but can find only their own flesh.

Richard Locke, that Clark Gable-like Daddy, plays the incarcerated hero, and emerges as the First Romantic Idol of the porno screen, demonstrating in his unique way that macho and sensitive are not contradictory terms.

This movie has a distinct structure and story line, for Bressan works within the field of emotional narrative. "This is not a suck and fuck epic," he states, and although the movie has its tedious stretches and suffers greatly from much unrelieved romanticism, it is a significant departure in idea and content from any predecessor except Bressan's own **PASSING STRANGERS**. It is not an improvement on that film, except in its technology, but it is heartening and hopeful to find Cinema, however flawed, where once loops reigned. Bressan intended this film as a romantic bouquet; although a bouquet ought to have a lot more flowers, this one has enough buds to merit our attention and warm response.

Karr

## Great Outdoors Comes North

Great Outdoors began last year in Southern California when over 100 Gay people backpacked up a mountainside for the July 4th weekend. Since that time Great Outdoors members have gone island-hopping, backpacking, hiking, water skiing in the desert, swimming, horseback riding into the mountains; they've played volleyball in the forest, had foot races and picnics; they've been on bicycle runs and pitched tents on mountainsides. According to their press agents, over 700 people have



Great Outdoors — the recreational organization for Gay people and their friends — is planning a camping and hiking weekend at Sugarloaf Ridge near Santa Rosa, Feb. 17-19.

taken part in the various activities of the "Great Outdoors."

"The success of the group has been phenomenal," says Public Relations Director Marty McCombs. "What started out as just a way for us to get people together is developing into a whole new resource for Gay people; it's a new way to respond to our lifestyle — and we love it!"

Great Outdoors grew by over a hundred members a month. "The time is right," says McCombs. "People are looking for healthful relaxation, outdoors and sports activities, and new ways to meet people. There's something special about a Great Outdoors weekend."

McCombs, a personable young man, fresh out of college, adds, "There's something very exciting about spending the weekend with new people camped out under the stars and enjoying the 'wild west.' Being out in the woods together is something like a freedom fantasy."

The first Great Outdoors weekend in San Francisco, Feb. 17-19, will be nestled in a valley surrounded by three mountains at Sugarloaf Ridge near Santa Rosa. At the introductory outing, a Great Out-

doors membership will not be required and until March 1, Great Outdoors will be offering charter memberships in San Francisco. In addition, "Great Outdoors Travel" plans to offer inexpensive extended vacation-length trips to exciting spots all over the world.

## FRONT RUNNERS Schedule of Sunday Runs

Our purpose is to provide encouragement and support to Lesbians, Gay men and others who are interested in running. All events start at 10 AM Sundays. They are non-competitive, free and all are welcome. For information call Gary at 641-0250, Pat at 863-4942 or Marvin at 647-2056. Come out running!

**FEB. 18 — FORT POINT/MARINA GREEN RUN:** Meet at Fort Point, below Golden Gate Bridge, for this run along the Golden Gate Promenade.

**FEB. 25 — STOWE LAKE RUN:** Meet at the Stowe Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park — enter from South Drive. This is a good one for beginners.

**MARCH 4 — INDUSTRIAL PENTAGON RUN:** Meet at the large, blue China Basin Building at 4th & Berry for this five-sided run through the industrial section of the city. Bring a snack to share after the run.

**MARCH 11 — SUNSET BOULEVARD RUN:** Meet at the large parking lot at Lake Merced and Sunset Blvds. You can choose your own distance on this excellent, hard-dirt path.



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## Wander Lust

### Australia Canberra,

by A. Marc Leventhal

The surprise of my sojourn in Australia was discovering Canberra. The National Capital is a young city, deliberately planned from the start. Midway between Melbourne and Sydney, this seat of federal government should be visited. The view of the city from the air is impressive and even more beautiful close-up.

I would suggest you start your visit at the Regatta Point Planning Exhibition. This pavilion, standing on the lake

shore, presents a superb short audio-visual screening of the founding, the planning, and the construction of Canberra. It is very well done.

The large man-made Lake Burley Griffin is the focal point

**Canberra is a delightful and impressive city.  
Be sure to include it on your itinerary.**

of the city. It is named after the American designer of Canberra and tours around it will delight even the jaded traveler. The Parliament House is an attrac-

tive white building, set among trees, lawns, and rose gardens, and faces the lake and up the broad sweep of Anzac Parade, the Australian War Memorial. This "provisional" Parliament House was being built in 1926 when the seat of the government moved from Melbourne. Meant to have a life span of 50 years, during which time a majestic building could be built, this simple decorous structure is now in need of being replaced. Still a handsome building with fine works of art. The imposing red avenue, Anzac Parade, leads to the Australian War Memorial. The Memorial was nearing com-



huge, splendid collection of relics, paintings, and sculpture. Probably the greatest and most impressive war museum in the world. The focal point of the Memorial is the Hall of Memory, whose massive domed hall is mirrored in the long reflecting pool. It is eighty feet high from the floor to apex, with stained glass windows, a memorial statue, and rich glass mosaics on the interior walls and dome. It is impossible not to be moved by the towering sculpture or the radiant windows (each showing uniformed figures representing such personal qualities as comradeship, devotion, coolness, and audacity). The gorgeous mosaics are made of six million pieces of glass and took three years to affix. A must-see and unforgettable experience.

And don't miss the Captain Cook Memorial, the towering water jet that rises 400 feet out of the lake.

Another highlight of your visit to Australia should be a tour to Tralee Station where Bernard Morrison may personally greet you and show off his 3,500 acre property. I was entertained royally at a ranch style barbecue, and witnessed close up the incredible sheep dog demonstration as one collie mesmerizes the sheep. You can pose with the sheep as the dog keeps them in control with his eyes. This is followed by a sheep shearing demonstration where you can take a sample of wool fresh from the sheep. Just feel the lanolin as you finger the wool. A boomerang demonstration is an added bonus. Before you shop in the little uncommercial souvenir room, visit the outdoor collection of Australian animals — pet the wombat, stroke the wallabies, watch the kangaroos hop, and wonder at the emu.

One last place to visit — the Free Serbian Orthodox Church in the Canberra suburb, Forrest. This little church has elaborate murals created by Karl Matzek, an eighty year old pensioner, who for the past seven years has been covering the ceiling and walls with original paintings. The Battle Panoramas are staggering and are still in progress of being painted.

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Sex involved. Sincere only call  
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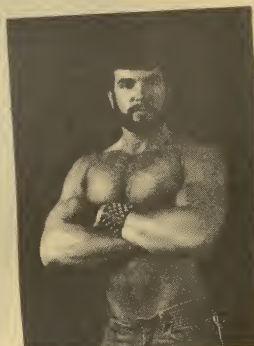
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